

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Night style
With no apologies to
Noel Coward, Fashion
revives the dressing gown



Fight for flight
Will hard-headed
commerce win its battle
for a London docklands
airport?

Printer's devil?
Phillip Whitehead on
the dangers of
taxing the printed word

Crusading team
Bobby Robson picks his
England football squad
for the Istanbul match

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition weekly £20,000 prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr William Madge, of Grasmere Avenue, Slough, Berkshire, and Mr Tom Gifford, of Sidmouth, Devon, will each receive £10,000. The daily £2,000 prize was shared by Miss Mary Spence, of Cranley Gardens, Maxwell Hill, North London, and Mr Mark D'Souza, of Stepping Green, East London.

Portfolio list, page 18; rules and how to play, information service, back page.

RAF quick off mark in Ethiopia

The RAF's food lift to starving Ethiopians got quickly into its stride. Hercules transports were yesterday already delivering grain sacks at the rate of 100 tons a day to the worst-hit areas. Operation Bushel was airborne before other aid efforts.

Call for tougher monopolies body

Mr Roy Hattersley, Shadow Chancellor, has called for a more effective Government monopolies watchdog combining the roles of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading.

Revenge fears

Sinn Féin leaders say they fear revenge killings of top republicans in Ireland after the IRA's attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister in Brighton last month.

Rowland stays

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lorrho, has decided to stay on the board of House of Fraser, despite selling its stake in the Harrods group.

Stalin boost

The return of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, to Russia may be used by Kremlin hardliners as part of their campaign to rehabilitate the dictator.

Israel squeeze

Special courts with streamlined procedures are being set up in Israel to help enforce the three-month freeze on wages, prices and profits.

Plea to Budd

Nigel Cooper, the general secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, has flown to South Africa to try to persuade Zola Budd to return to Britain.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On N Ireland, from Mr F F Steele; pits strike, from Mr Goronwy Daniel; India, from Mr J Solnick, and others.

Features, pages 12-14

Poland after Popieluszko: American eyes and ears over the Gulf, how the press is helping Scargill. Spectrum: Judge Imposimato v the Mafia. Monday Paper: Washington's woman power.

Obituary, page 16

Professor D R S Davies, Mabel Moyle, Mr Julian Jebb

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Thatcher flies back to face Cabinet cash cuts dispute

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister returned from Delhi last night to face one of the most difficult and bitter public spending disputes within her Cabinet since she took office.

The "star chamber", set up early last month to cut more than £2,500m from next year's Whitehall spending bids, has failed by well over £1,000m to meet its target.

At least two ministers, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are preparing to take their fight against the Treasury to the full Cabinet on Thursday.

Mr Jenkin, backed to the hilt by Mr Ian Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's former chief political aide, is fiercely resisting a Treasury demand for a £600m cut in the 1985-86 programme of new council house building and housing improvement grants.

Mr Jopling has encountered an unprecedented Treasury assault on farm spending which seems certain to result in big cuts in grants to Britain's prosperous "cereal barons".

But although he appears to have resisted the Treasury's initial demand, which would have made a hole of several hundred million pounds in the £1,600m sum the farming community receives from the taxpayer, the cuts still being sought are too great for his liking.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, are others with whom the "star chamber", chaired by Lord Whitelaw, has yet to settle and who may plead their case to the Cabinet.

As the strength of spending ministers' opposition has emerged in Whitehall, it has been made known that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will warn his colleagues on Thursday that unless the cuts are made the chances of a tax-cutting budget next spring are much reduced.

That is a risk which some ministers are more than prepared to take.

The serious Cabinet divisions came at an embarrassing time for Mrs Thatcher, who will speak in the Commons tomorrow, the first day of the new parliamentary session, at the opening of the debate on the Queen's speech.

She is expected to hold a series of discussions with individual ministers this week in the hope of securing some agreement before Thursday.

Proceedings in Lord Whitelaw's committee, dominated by present or past Treasury ministers, have been particularly contentious this year. "That bloody star chamber is no fun at all", one minister directly involved has told colleagues.

Mr Lawson's demand for cuts in housing expenditure has caused fury in the Department

of the Environment. At a time when the Government is trying to present a caring image over the high jobless figures, such cuts would be highly inappropriate because they would hit the construction industry and increase unemployment, it is argued.

MPs believe that the influence of Mr Gow, Mrs Thatcher's former parliamentary private secretary, will be important in a battle which is crucial to Mr Jenkin's Cabinet future.

The Treasury has launched its offensive against farm spending at a time when the farmers have just gathered in another record harvest, when the EEC grain mountain stands at a record level and when the opposition of the environmental lobby to some of the actions of the big farmers, particularly the removal of hedgerows, has received growing public support.

"In short, it's suddenly a very popular target", one official remarked yesterday.

The grants paid to the big cereal farmers appear likely to be reduced. But part of Mr Jopling's argument with the Treasury has centred on the extent to which the money thus saved should go to the poorer hill farmers.

He is also determined to protect the position of the small grain farmer, who would be severely hit by big cuts in aid.

Militants press Austin unions to defy court

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Union leaders at Austin Rover are under considerable pressure from union activists outside the company to ignore any order by the High Court imposing a secret ballot on the proposed strike.

They want to link the motor industry with the striking miners, creating a broader based confrontation with the Government on its use of legislation to force secret balloting before a strike.

Faced with a split in the ranks of its 28,000 manual workers, Austin Rover will serve writs today on nine trade unions under the 1984 Industry Act. The writs will be answerable in the High Court on Tuesday, when the company applies for injunctions forcing the unions to suspend strike action until they have conducted a secret ballot.

The state-owned car maker will be the first big employer to use the legislation since it came into force at the end of September.

Weekend attempts to influence the outcome of today's meeting in Coventry of 80 Austin Rover union delegates could rebound against the militants.

A shop steward at the Longbridge plant told *The Times* last night: "I had three phone calls from people I had never heard of who said they were trade union officials. They said we had a golden opportunity to support the miners' strike because the issue was the same: the use of secret ballots instead of our traditional show of hands."

He said he supported the miners but had no intention of letting Austin Rover be dragged into a side issue. "Our demands are quite different."

Mr Ken Cure, the senior engineering union official on the company's joint negotiating committee, said: "I am convinced that we have taken them as far as we can. A strike would not improve the offer and could lead to some concessions made on Friday being taken away."

'Lack of confidence in MacGregor'

Managers demand new NCB approach

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The internal crisis within the National Coal Board will be brought to a head today when leaders of the British Association of Colliery Management demand fundamental changes in the running of the industry.

Mr Alan Wilson, general secretary of the 15,000-strong BACM last night accused Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the coal board of operating a "two-man band" and hinted that he should be replaced.

As the miners' strike goes into its thirty-fifth week the colliery managers will call into question the direction provided by the board's chief executive office which, they argue, is "a disaster".

The chief executive office is composed of Mr MacGregor and his deputy Mr James Cowan.

Mr Wilson told *The Times* yesterday: "It is a two-man band, and that is not the way to run this industry, which is complex and has certain traditions that have to be known and understood."

Mr Wilson, who leads a delegation of colliery managers to meet Mr MacGregor this afternoon, said there was "a lack of confidence" among pit managers in the present chairman, adding: "We are not saying we want him removed. Nor are we saying we don't want him removed."

Leaders of the BACM are likely to extend the range of

their objections to "those who appoint the coal board", suggesting that they will make direct representation to the Government that there must be changes in the composition of the board at the highest level.

The managers are sharply critical of the concentration of power within the NCB into fewer and fewer hands. The board now has only four full-time members and the industry is run on a day-to-day basis by Mr MacGregor and Mr Cowan through the chief executive office.

Mr Wilson went on: "My association does not support the office of the chief executive because it has been a success. It has not. So obviously we are seeking to have it changed. It has concentrated power in the hands of two people, and the communications from there down to the level of senior management where decisions have to be implemented is a disaster."

Mr MacGregor of not taking into account the views of senior management "who have an input to make before decision are taken."

The crisis has come to the surface as a result of the affair of Mr Geoffrey Kirk, involving the NCB's director of publicity. Amid rumours that he had been dismissed, Mr Kirk was sent on leave last week, but Mr Michael Eaton, the board's new "front man" said on the BBC radio programme *World This Week* yesterday that he was still the director of public relations and he was expected back at work.

Mr Kirk, who is a member of BACM, should be back at his desk today. It is still not clear whether he will remain in the post or take early retirement.

Mr Eaton said in the radio interview that today's talks between the board and the colliery managers "will be in the nature of trying to sort the problem out" but he was reluctant to go into detail about divisions within the board over his handling of the miners' strike.

of the sight of the church. By 11 am, as the Prime Minister, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, began the Requiem mass, preserver by the thousands to the sight of a square full of people crying as a disembodied voice drifted past them.

As the coffin neared the grave, a quarter of a million Poles knelt in the streets, in the

square, on balconies, in the park.

Mr Lech Walesa, former leader of the banned union, addressed the sombre rather than the bitter or excited part of the crowd, but his words brought repeated cheers. "Solidarity lives because you gave your life for it, Father Jerzy, a Poland that has such priests

and such a population so faithful and devoted to Solidarity, has not perished and will not perish."

It was inevitable that, as the crowd dispersed, a fragment would break off and stage a demonstration. It showed something of the new self-confidence of Solidarity.

"Don't beat your brothers for money," said the marchers, throwing stones in the gutter as they passed the police.

One consequence of the murder of Father Popieluszko by secret policemen is that Solidarity has taken over most of its own protection. Only a few Solidarity leaders are seen in public without their guards of steel or shipyard workers.

Rifkind visit, page 5
Poland stirred, page 14



Widow's grief A SRI woman bewails the death of her husband in a house burnt down by Hindus near Delhi

Cabinet stays in Gandhi mould

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

As the eruption of killing and burning which shook India after Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination began to subside yesterday and after her funeral which effectively marked the transfer of power to the new leader, Mr Rajiv Gandhi began the serious business of governing India in earnest.

He announced first his new Cabinet, which in fact looks very much like his mother's old one. All the senior ministers were re-appointed, most of them to their old jobs, with the exception of Mr P. C. Sethi. He had, at one time, been Home Minister, but was made to bear the responsibility for the failure of government policy in Punjab. He was shuffled sideways into Planning by Mr Gandhi, but

has now been dropped altogether.

A significant promotion has been that of Mrs Mosina Kidwai, who belongs to two minorities: (1) she is a woman and (2) she is a Muslim. The votes of both Muslims and women are going to be of crucial importance in the forthcoming general election. Mrs Kidwai formerly had responsibility for rural development. She still holds the same portfolio but has been promoted to Cabinet rank.

She will be the only woman in the Cabinet.

There is only one new entrant to the government, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, President of the Rajasthan State Congress Party who becomes Minister of State for Finance.

Mr Gandhi is hanging onto the Foreign Affairs job himself. His mother held it since her last reshuffle three months ago, and like her, he will be assisted by two Ministers of State. It was therefore as Foreign Minister that he was able to launch himself into an intensive round of diplomatic discussions yesterday when a number of the heads of government or their ministers attending his mother's funeral called on him.

Perhaps the most significant meetings were those with leaders of Pakistan and China. President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan emphasised a number of times that he wants improved relations with India.

Mr Gandhi told the Chinese vice-premier, Mr Yao Yi Lin, that he looked forward to relations becoming closer even than they were in the 1950s. Mr Yao invited Mr Gandhi to visit Peking.

Mr Gandhi also met Mrs Thatcher briefly on Saturday

Delhi security shake-up as city deaths top 450

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

V. K. Kapoor, has been appointed for the Delhi territory to coordinate the law and order operations. Until yesterday he was running the Delhi Electrical Supply Undertaking. His main task now is liaison with the Army, whose operations have been partly hampered by the paralysis of the police.

Santwant Singh, is the centre of a great many speculative stories in the Indian press, the *Hindustan Times*, a Delhi English language paper which generally follows a pro-Congress Party line, said Santwant Singh's wife, who was arrested in her Punjab home, disclosed that "some army general" was behind the assassination.

The Defence Ministry had already denied the story when it was published in *Calcutta's The Statesman*. At that time it was attributed to Santwant Singh himself.

There are also widely circulating reports that Inspector Beant Singh and Santwant Singh were not shot immediately upon killing Mrs Gandhi, but at some time later following an alleged escape attempt.

The reports appear to be based on the account of Peter Ustinov, who was in an adjoining garden at the time of the killing. He said there was a gap between the bursts of firing.

The gap, however, may be explained by the suggestion that, after killing the Prime Minister, the two assassins ran towards the gate of her house, hoping to escape, and were shot there by loyal guards.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi: Sacked Delhi's administrator

Mr Wali defended the police to some extent yesterday, saying they had opened fire on rioting crowds 109 times in the past three days. Seventeen people had been killed in police shooting and 14 injured, he said.

Of the dead counted by the authorities, 59 were Hindus. Mr Wali declined to say whether the rest were Sikhs. "The rest were non-Hindu," he said.

He also said the police had arrested 1,089 people for arson and looting during the riots. Property worth two million rupees (£140,000) had been recovered.

Meanwhile the surviving assassin of Mrs Gandhi, PC

Firebrand rats

Cairo (Reuters, AP) - At least 50 people were killed and 500 mud houses destroyed in a fire carried from house to house by strong winds and burning rats in the Nile delta village of al-Dahreya. The fire started in a kitchen where a woman was baking bread.

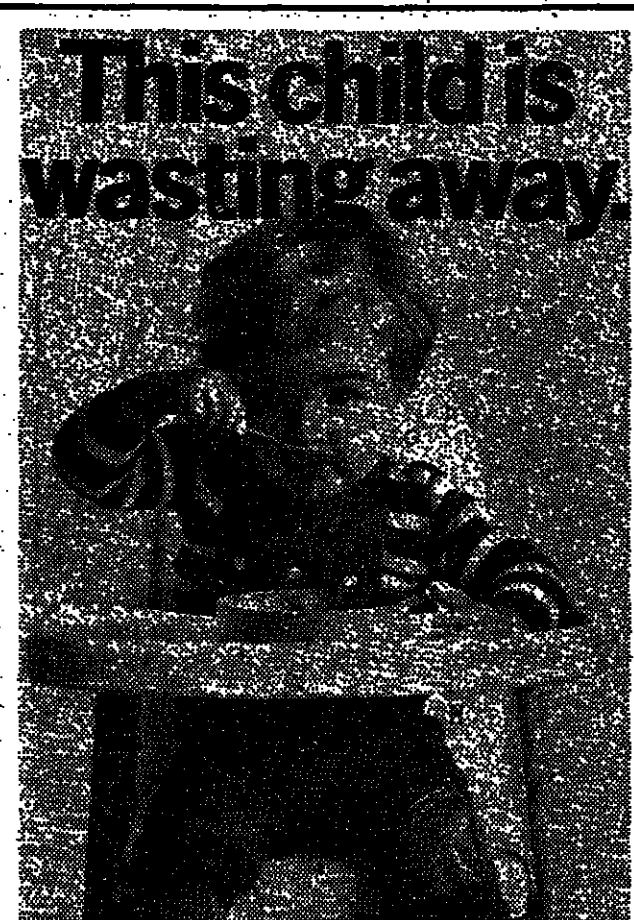
Reagan on brink of historic win

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

With only a day to go before the nation makes its choice, American voters appear ready to give President Reagan, an historic reelection victory of landslide proportions.

Two polls put the President 18 and 19 percentage points ahead of Mr Walter Mondale, his Democratic rival, while the Republican Party's pollster estimate his lead at a massive 22 points. Barring unforeseen last-minute crises, Mr Reagan seems certain to carry at least 45 states tomorrow and could even achieve an unprecedented 50-state sweep. Only the District of Columbia, with its three electoral college votes, seems secure for Mr Mondale.

The polls also show that the Republicans will retain control



This child is wasting away

There's nothing wrong with his appetite. It's his muscles that are wasting away. When he's three he'll begin to stumble and fall. By the time he's ten, he'll be wheelchair-bound. Soon the relentless progress of Duchenne muscular dystrophy will render him totally helpless. Finally, in his teens, he won't have the strength even to feed himself. Before long, he won't need to.

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Late bookings may lead to collapse of more package tour operators

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The prospect of the collapse of more package holiday companies overshadowed the arrival in London yesterday of delegates to the thirty-fourth annual conference of the Association of British Travel Agents.

More than a dozen tour operators have collapsed so far this season. The latest were Budget Holidays and Excel Holidays, which had a linked management.

A warning that more collapses or mergers were likely came from Mr Richard Gapper, managing director of Pickfords Travel, one of the top three retail travel agents. Few in the trade disagree with him.

The second-ranking and small tour operators not part of larger companies with other interests are most at risk after the price-cutting war this year which clipped profit margins. There are estimates that at least a third of tour operators and retail travel agents are running at a loss.

Fewer travel agents are attending the London conference than in previous years.

although Abta has achieved its target of attracting about 2,400 delegates, including representatives of those tour operators which are also Abta members.

All are watching the market anxiously to see if the attempt by leading tour companies to increase their prices next summer is successful.

Increase of up to a fifth in brochure prices are now common. They could improve profit margins for package tour operators and help travel agents, whose survival depends on commissions of about ten per cent.

Sales so far of holidays for next summer are reported to be slow, which could mean that the trend towards late booking is growing.

This year late bookings helped to starve the travel industry's cash flow, based on deposits made by holidaymakers often months before they went away.

If the bookings trend remains slow it could test the nerves of the key tour operators and possibly lead to re-launched brochures with reduced prices. Those who booked early would still benefit from the lower prices.

However, Mr John MacNeil, managing director of Thomson Holidays, the market leader, said: "I see no reason so far for a brochure relaunch."

The travel industry also faces the unsettling effect of the miners' strike, which led this summer to many holiday cancellations.

The 1985 price rises are highest for Spain, the most popular holiday destination, and Pickfords Travel is forecasting a one per cent decline in holidays taken there.

Most of the trade expects a switch by holidaymakers to Greece, where prices are between £30 and £40 more than for comparable holidays in Spain.

Many tour operators expect a standstill year for sales in 1985, or possibly a slight decline. Only the big companies, like Thomson, Intasun Leisure, Horizon Travel and Cosmos are expected further to increase their market share.

Thomson said yesterday that its 1984 summer business had increased by 30 per cent.

Fee-paying schools told to attract more pupils

By Colin Hughes

Fee-paying schools face a shaky future unless they can improve their image with parents and attract more pupils over the next decade, according to a report by Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells, a management consultant for many independent schools.

It says that independent schools' sixth forms in particular risk losing pupils to the newly-emerging state sixth-form colleges.

The report's authors also say that the Government's assisted places scheme, aimed at aiding less well-off parents who want to send their children to independent schools, will achieve little in the long term to increase pupils' numbers.

Hopes that the increasing trend among parents towards paying for day school places near their home rather than boarding places would increase fee-paying numbers have also failed to bear fruit, the company says.

"Above all, the continuing increase in fees at a rate substantially above that of inflation can only work against any efforts to increase the market share."



Royal run: Prince Michael of Kent, president of the RAC, driving a 1902 Wolseley yesterday, with Prince Paul von Metternich, president of the International Association for Motoring Organizations, and Archduke and Archduchess Gotha von Habsburg of Austria. They were among 330 entrants in the London to Brighton veteran car run. The Wolseley, which was closely followed by security officers in a Jaguar, broke down twice.

Doctors to send MPs death card on smokers

The death of every smoker is to be recorded by a black-lined card sent by general practitioners to the patient's MP, which could mean up to 270 cards a day being sent to the House of Commons.

The British Medical Association has sent several thousand cards to GPs. The cards will say whether the patient died of lung cancer, chronic obstructive heart disease, coronary heart disease, or another tobacco-related cancer or vascular disease.

They will be signed by the GPs, but will not bear the patient's name. The BMA hopes the cards will bring home to MPs the number of deaths related to smoking.

George Best arrested

Mr George Best, the former Manchester United player will appear today before Bow Street magistrates in London to face charges of driving with excess alcohol and assaulting a police constable. He was taken to Westminster hospital for treatment yesterday when he collapsed at Cannon Row police station as the charges were read to him.

He had been arrested after a police chase near his Chelsea home when he failed to appear to answer bail on Saturday. He had been charged earlier with a drink-driving offence in The Mall in central London.

RSPCA charges

Mr Don Harrison and his wife, Kay, who run Wings-haven, a bird hospital and sanctuary at Sheffield Park, East Sussex, are to appear before Uckfield magistrates on November 22 to answer charges brought by the RSPCA of failing to register birds and failing to care for them properly.

Widening gap in pay ratios

Top director earns £521,000

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The gap between Britain's "big earners" and workers on average pay is widening with 179 company directors receiving more than £100,000 a year, according to the Labour Research Department.

In 1979 the 20 highest paid directors received as much as 454 "average" male manual workers, by last year they were paid more than 722 such workers, the left-wing funded organization says.

Top of the earnings league for the fourth year running was Mr Richard Giordano, head of British Oxygen, who last year received £521,000. Fifty-three of his colleagues in the country's boardroom were paid more than £125,000 a year, the department's annual survey estimates.

Directors paid more than £200,000, 1983				
director	company	pay (£)	% rise	£2-83
Richard Giordano	BOC	521,000	-10	
BP		519,656	9	
N R Whitehouse	BSR	497,100	72	
Gerald Ronson	Heron	446,000	55	
David Craig	BOC	285,000	N/A	
Tony Rowland	Lovell	264,000	-1	
Mark de Ferranti	Doris Ferranti Metals	250,000	66	
Sir Patrick Sargeant	Associated News	234,420	N/A	
Warren Sinsheimer	Plessey	233,128	24	
Sir Francis Tombs	Turner & Newall	231,107	N/A	
James Baldwin	BOC	215,000	N/A	
Peter Griggs	R Griggs	204,108	1	
William Griggs	R Griggs	204,108	1	
Sir Peter Goodall	STC	202,454	5	
Sir Kenneth Corfield	STC	201,000	47	
David Viet	S Pearson	200,672	102	

*works mainly outside UK

Directors earning more than £500,000 in pay and dividends, 1983				
director	company	pay (£)	% rise	£2-83
David Sainsbury	Sainsbury	5,886,381	18	
Tim Howard	Lowry	4,255,067	0	
John Sainsbury	Sainsbury	2,025,000	18	
Timothy Sainsbury	Sainsbury	1,801,430	17	
Phil Harris	Harris Queensway	1,383,917	26	
Sir Terence Conran	Habitat	916,181	0	
Harry Goodwin	Imeson	770,027	14	
Bernard Matthews	Imeson	668,457	-2	
Noel Lister	MFI	613,904	34	
Lord Forte	Trusthouse Forte	612,701	15	
East of London	East of London	546,667	15	
Lord Weir	GEC	527,916	15	
Richard Giordano	BOC	527,000	-10	
Alton Whitehouse	BP	519,644	9	

Apart from the three Sainsburys, David, Sir John and Conservative MP Timothy, who received total increases of £1,458,504 last year - four other men received rises in excess of £100,000 from pay and dividends.

chairman of the American subsidiary, and Sir Francis Tombs, of Turner and Newall, whose £231,108 includes a bonus of £180,000 paid by the company's bankers for "reviving the fortunes of the asbestos makers".

Traffic ban proposed for London shopping streets

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Radical proposals to ban cars and through traffic from several of London's prime shopping streets, including Piccadilly, Oxford Street and the Strand, are to be urged by the Government and London boroughs by the Campaign to Improve London's Transport (CILT) pressure group.

The group claims that handing over trunk central routes to buses and pedestrians would not only improve public transport but would improve business in the City and West End.

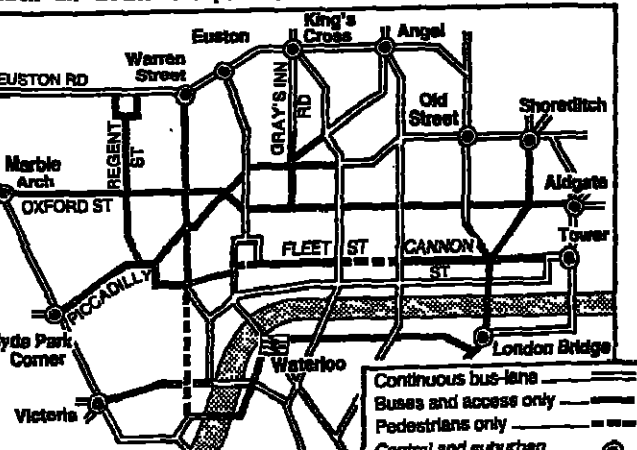
The group, formed by transport planners, trade unions, and local authorities, is appealing for funds to carry out a detailed study of its proposals.

The draft proposals show two east-west and two north-south routes across London from which all traffic except buses

and those requiring access would be banned, dramatically improving bus journeys and the environment, it is claimed. The routes are Marble Arch to Aldgate via Oxford Street, Holborn and Chancery; Hyde Park Corner to the Tower via Piccadilly, the Strand, Fleet Street, and Cannon Street; Warren Street to Charing Cross via Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road; and Liverpool Street to London Bridge via Bishopsgate.

Other routes would include London Bridge to Waterloo and Victoria; Piccadilly Circus to Gray's Inn Road via Shaftesbury Avenue and New Oxford Street; and Euston Road to Piccadilly Circus via Regent Street.

London: The Most Civilized City? CILT, Tress House, 3, Stamford Street, London SE1 9NT.



Jury to be drawn from Asian area

By Pat Healy

Race Relations Correspondent

A High Court judge has ruled that the jury in the trial of four Asians charged after a scuffle involving members of the National Front should be drawn exclusively from an area with a high Asian population.

It is believed to be the first time that a judge has taken steps to ensure that a multi-racial jury tries a case involving racial issues.

A policeman in plain clothes was wounded during the scuffle outside a hall in Kent, where National Front members were meeting. National Front supporters clashed with Asians demonstrating outside the hall. The four accused Asians are charged with wounding the policeman.

Mr Anthony Jennings representing the four men, argued before Mr Justice Woolf at Maidstone Crown Court that they would not have a fair trial unless the hearing was moved from Maidstone and the jury was multi-racial.

The judge rejected the application for the trial to be transferred to London, but accepted that there should be a multi-racial jury.

He directed that the jury should be drawn from the Gravesend area, and that any juror seeking to be excused would have to explain the reasons to the trial judges. The case is to be heard on November 19.

BBC 'Weekend World' rival unveiled

By David Hewson

The BBC's new flagship current affairs programme will make its public debut on Sunday, November 18, with the presenter David Dimbleby in the chair.

This Week, Next Week is intended as a rival to LWT's Weekend World, and will go out for 50 minutes at 1 pm each Sunday, starting as the ITV programme ends. As with Weekend World, it will attempt to have an interview each week with an important topical figure which will be sufficiently authoritative to be reported in the following day's newspapers.

Mr Dimbleby and the National Union of Journalists have now settled the dispute over his family group of newspapers, which threatened some of his work with the BBC.

This Week, Next Week stems from the failure of the early evening current affairs programme Sixty Minutes.

Independent television will be forced to share coverage of the state opening of Parliament with the BBC tomorrow because of the two-week strike by technicians at Thames Television which ended at the weekend.

Thames had exclusive rights

to cover the ceremony, but offered the option to the BBC last week when the company's managers felt that a settlement was still some days away.

But support for the dispute rapidly eroded last Thursday.

The rest of Thames schedules will return to normal from 9.25am today.

Association of Cinematography, Television and Allied Technicians settled on Friday on a pay agreement giving the film editors at the heart of the dispute 13 per cent now, and seven per cent when new lightweight cameras are used in the company.

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If you're really with percentages - you're with the W%lwich.

Egon Ronay's verdict

Forces eat better than many civilians

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

When it comes to feeding their men there seems to be only one thing which the armed forces cannot do really well, and that is brew a cup of tea.

The Egon Ronay Organization, scourge of motorway service stations and other mass caterers, today produces a glowing account, studded with superlatives, of the standards of food served to their junior ranks by the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

In a survey last spring, Mr Ronay's inspectors visited 17 service units in Britain and West Germany, each sampling 200 dishes.

At RAF Innsworth, Gloucestershire, was a "faultless" gooseberry crumble "which could have been served at the Dorchester Grill".

At the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield, Humberside, an inspector tasted "the best, lightest and prettiest pizza I have ever encountered".

On HMS Illustrious was a hamburger "superior to many in hamburger restaurants who purport to specialize in this particular dish".

At the Army Catering Corps headquarters at Aldershot, inspectors tasted an "exceptional" savarin, "a really, light, moist and springy sponge with a mouthwatering glaze".

One inspector wrote: "I have not encountered a superior example in a restaurant after three years of inspecting." The other commented: "I have not tasted a better example in starred restaurants in England, France and the United States."

The overall assessment in Egon Ronay's *Lucas Guide*, 1985, is that "the level of catering in the armed forces is very much superior to what we experience in civilian mass catering; the food is infinitely better, the choice and variety are greater and the management is generally far more conscientious, efficient, intelligent and concerned to please".

After sampling food on the aircraft carrier, HMS Illustrious, an inspector wrote: "All this represents standards of excellence which would seem impossible to achieve under the conditions, and at a raw materials cost of only £1.09 per man per day. How do they do it? The only explanation can be that they are masters at managing resources."

Their real criticisms were reserved for the tea: "From an urn. Dark, tannic and bitter."



This is something that has not changed in the army," Or: "Hot, but it lacked taste and body. Rather poor."

The best tea appears to have been at the postal and courier depot run by the Royal Engineers at Mill Hill, north London, where it was "fresh, medium-strength and enjoyable - much better than a usual army tea."

Mr Ronay also says that the public, "only just emerging from the gastronomic dark ages", is now in danger of being imposed upon by jumped-up over-publicized chefs.

The fashion for lionizing chefs in proliferating restaurant columns, he fears, could result in "nauseating gastronomic snobism" à la française.

The French, Mr Ronay assures his readers, blindly revere prima donna chefs who spend too much of their time in television studios and too little at their stoves.

Although his book is full of kind words for those he rates himself, he does make his own

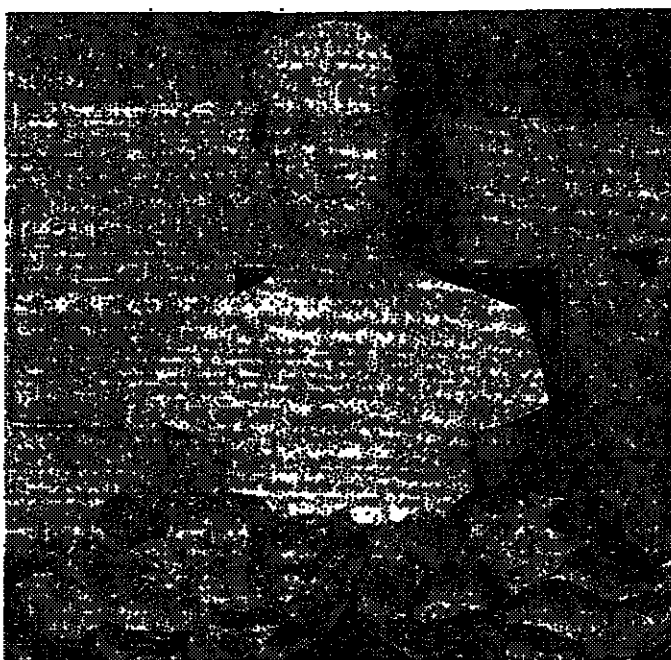
contribution to cutting local chefs down to size. "The cooking at oriental restaurants", he gently avers, "is now usually of higher quality than the European competition."

Mr Ronay awards only two restaurants three stars for "best cooking" (La Tante Claire, Chelsea, and the Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire), but he does to some extent lionize chefs. Nico Ladenis, whose Chez Nico, Battersea, is named restaurant of the year, and Peter Schlenker, whose Rue St Jacques, Charlotte Street, central London, is awarded two stars at its first appearance.

Hambleton Hall, Oakham, Leicestershire, is chosen as hotel of the year, while the award for best wine list goes to the "amazing phenomenon" of the small Peat Inn at the village of that name in Fife.

Egon Ronay's *Lucas Guide 1985* to Hotels, Restaurants and Inns, Great Britain and Ireland. (Mitchell Beazley, £7.50).

The gourmet door, page 14



Catering skills: Washing up (top) at an army field kitchen for trainees at St Omar Barracks, Aldershot, and Cook Graham King of HMS Illustrious with hamburgers praised by Egon Ronay.

Neighbourhood watch grows

Public eyes and ears check crime

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr John Tribe, aged 43, a martial arts enthusiast, had his shoulder dislocated when he sought to make a citizen's arrest while on neighbourhood watch after a burglary and was hit by one of two suspects. Both escaped, he said.

He and a team of seven other walk the neighbourhood at night, giving cover until 5am. Mr Tribe carries a hand radio tuned in to a set back at base.

The Hindle House scheme in Hackney, east London, is possibly unique. Neighbourhood watch, probably the fastest

growing community movement in the country, is not for vigilantes and Mr Tribe, who made a citizen's arrest in the 1970s, denies that he is one.

He also keeps an eye on old people and is chairman of the tenants' association. "I don't go round looking for trouble," he says. There is a strong welfare element in the scheme, which covers 238 dwellings.

"In every talk we give, we are only asking people to use their eyes and ears," said Det Inspector Jim Keenan of Cheshire police, which claims to have had the first scheme in the country. "We don't want them

to tackle criminals. We think that is our job."

Avon and Somerset police have appointed extra special constables in a neighbourhood watch area to help regular officers.

Cheshire is beginning on average 15-20 new schemes a week and now has more than 800.

The Metropolitan Police have 806 schemes with another 584 proposed. The latest national figures are that 22 police forces have launched schemes and 11 more plan to.

How successful schemes are

Refresher courses for GPs urged

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

More refresher courses for family doctors are called for in a report to the Royal College of General Practitioners. The recommendation comes after a survey which showed that many experienced doctors quite often have gaps of basic understanding needed for recognizing common disorders.

The findings complement another study that points to a particular need for doctors who have been in practice more than 15 years to have refresher courses. The average GP spends only four hours a year on post-graduate courses.

The second was conducted for the Committee on Safety of Medicine. That inquiry looked into how many GPs and hospital doctors bothered to fill in "yellow cards" on which the committee relies to get an early warning of the appearance of side effects from any particular drug.

But an analysis of the doctors making reports on side effects through the yellow card system shows that most come from individuals who qualified between five to 15 years ago.

Parrish's explanation rejected

The pressure on Derbyshire's suspended chief constable, Mr Alf Parrish, increased at the weekend after the county's police committee refused to accept his answers to claims that he had used his official car to visit the theatre and races and used police funds to install a burglar alarm at his home.

Mr Parrish, aged 54, was suspended on full pay in June after claims that he spent £28,000 on his office suite without authorization. He has since asked to retire early because of ill health.

He was too ill to attend a secret meeting of the committee on Saturday when it was decided that the latest allegations involving his car should be referred to the independent tribunal set up to examine the office expenditure claim.

Mr Harry Lowe, committee chairman, said the committee was "not satisfied" with the answers provided by Mr Parrish's barrister, Mr Anthony Scrivenor, QC.

Hope of Olympians' aid for quality campaign

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Olympic gold medalists Torvill and Dean and Daley Thompson are among the top entertainers or sports personalities likely to be asked to join a national campaign to increase British workers' awareness of quality.

A new authority is to be established to coordinate the campaign and carry the quality message to every part of British industry. It will be financed from sources including local government, unions, and industry and its sponsors hope to have a leading media star as chairman.

The idea emanates from a 20-man team which met last week in Birmingham to formulate a strategy to improve Britain's performance in quality so that it can compete against the industrial giants in Japan and the United States. The loss of one per cent of the world market for Britain in the high technology sector is estimated to cost the country 250,000 jobs.

The team, composed of industrialists, union representatives, bankers and bureaucrats, went on a three week tour of the Pacific Basin in the summer, and visited factories

Kremlin hardliners may use Svetlana's return to restore Stalin image

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The dramatic return to Russia of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, could focus attention on the politically sensitive question of Stalin and Stalinism, diplomats here believe.

Svetlana has not yet made a public appearance in Moscow, but her return has been made known through the media.

Some diplomats argue that a decision by Stalin's daughter to cross back to the East could not only serve to reinforce the Kremlin's view of the evils of the capitalist world, but could also be used by hardliners as part of a campaign eventually to rehabilitate Stalin.

The Soviet Union is gearing up for big celebrations early next year commemorating the end of the Second World War, sources point out, and it will be difficult to avoid Stalin's role as wartime leader, even at the risk of raising fresh controversy over his crimes.

Soviet television briefly announced the return of Svetlana on Friday evening, saying her Soviet citizenship had been restored and that citizenship had been granted to her daughter, Olga. The item was tucked away at the end of the bulletin and used Svetlana's Russian name, Alliluyeva, her mother's maiden name.

There was no mention of Stalin, but most Russians over 40 know the details of his terrible rule and family life. Russians also recall Svetlana's defection in 1967 and the condemnation of her by the Kremlin.

The authorities are expected to capitalize on her return by publishing articles by her denouncing life in the West as she experienced it over 17 years, or by staging a press conference.

Diplomats were astonished that Svetlana's citizenship should have been restored - an extremely rare step - even though she committed the unthinkable crime of burning her Soviet passport, embracing the Western way of life, revealing details of Stalin and his circle, and denouncing her homeland as a country of pain and trauma.

"The Kremlin will exact a high price for its leniency," one diplomat remarked. Sources said that although Svetlana might find it difficult to readjust to Soviet life in the long term, she would need little prompting to denounce capitalism, since she had already done so in the West.

Before leaving England, Svetlana repeatedly expressed disillusionment with the West, as well as her desire to see her son Josef and daughter Yekaterina. She may also visit the grave at Novodevichy monastery of her mother, Stalin's second wife, who killed herself when Svetlana was six.

In recent years Khrushchev's de-Stalinization measures have gradually been reversed, and reference books have played down or excised passages condemning Stalin's "cult of personality" and "mass repressions". In 1979, on the hundredth anniversary of Stalin's birth, *Pravda* cautiously called him a "complex and contradictory figure".

More recently, a military journal carried a laudatory article on his use of the title "Generalissimo", and, with the fortieth anniversary of "Victory Day" looming, there is pressure from the military for some acknowledgement of Stalin's achievements.

On the other hand, Soviet intellectuals point out that he murdered the flower of both the Red Army officer corps and the party intelligentsia, and argue that, if the Stalin era is to be reexamined, his achievements must be weighed in the balance against his purges and paranoia for the benefit of the younger generation, for whom both Stalin and his daughter are figures from a distant past.



Stalin: Difficult to ignore his war role.

Peking's economic reforms

Deng smartens up consumer tastes

From Mary Lee, Peking

One of the most visible signs of China's determination to modernize is the proliferation of Western-style suits among Peking's male population.

Even chauffeurs sport pin-striped suits these days, many looking more smartly dressed than their employers.

The *People's Daily* has editorialized on the importance of dressing well, while officials are trying to get the masses to shed the old three-piece-three attitude towards clothes - three years new, three years worn in and three patched up.

Stimulating demand for clothes and other consumer goods is seen as vital if local production is to rise dramatically. The results have been dramatic: the *Peking Review* reports that some 300 Western suits are sold daily in Peking's largest department store.

The wearing of fashionable clothes epitomizes the Communist Party's newly-adapted programme of economic reform, which begins formally next year until 1990. Several new catchphrases are now being bandied around: change fossilized methods, invigorate enterprises, to each according to his ability and - the most controversial - price reform.

The policy was first tried out in the agricultural sector in 1979. The peasants were told they could sell their surplus produce in free markets, after meeting the state's quota. They did, and have become rich peasants, chalking up five years of record harvests.

The success in the countryside in stopping the practice of "eating from the same big pot" has compelled economic planners, led by elder statesman Mr Deng Xiaoping, to push similar policies in the urban sector.

From now on, enterprises in the cities will be given more power to make decisions affecting the output and sales of their products. They will also be able to adopt "flexible and varied" management methods to encourage greater productivity, including the payment of bonuses to diligent workers, and "punishing" the lazy.

Dengists hope these new approaches will correct the major defects in the urban economic structure, the most crippling being the rigid control state organs exercise over all forms of business in China.

Most enterprises are state-owned, which until now meant all profits were handed to the state, which then apportioned funds for development and production. State appointed managers in turn were interested only in carrying out Government orders, regardless of their impact on the business. The Government also decided where factories would get their raw materials and in what quantity.

Under the reform programme, the state council has approved the decision to release half of 60 industrial products from the scope of mandatory planning.

The reforms mark a significant victory for Deng and his supporters in dismantling the Maoist principle of egalitarianism which, since 1979, has been indelibly linked with poverty.

Reading between the lines of newspaper editorials, however, observers predict that transforming attitudes of cadres and managers in the cities will not be as easy as it has been in the countryside.

The most difficult task involves price reforms - to reduce the range of generally low, uniform prices set by the state, price goods according to the costs of production and supply-demand factors, and gradually changing the country's "irrational pricing system", according to the *Peking Review*.

It was this aspect of the reform package which interested most people who, fearing price rises, flocked to shops and markets to load up on essentials and luxury goods like radios and television sets.

The panic buying forced officials to declare publicly that shops will not be allowed to raise their prices at random, and that price reforms will be introduced one step at a time.

Markets have since calmed down, but the episode indicates the wide gap remaining between policy and reality: well-dressed chauffeurs notwithstanding, city dwellers have long been accustomed to a high level of subsidies, while price reforms go hand-in-hand with the measures of economic liberalization.

With the authorities already carefully restructuring the extent to which "irrational pricing" will hold back the exercise of modern management remains to be seen.

China splits airline monopoly

From Our Correspondent Peking

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) will be handing over its international and domestic air service operations to five new airlines to be set up in the first half of 1985.

CAAC's director general, Mr Shen Tu, announced on Friday that as part of the first overall reform of civil aviation administration in 35 years, CAAC will in future be only a state council department in overall charge of civil aviation.

The new airlines will be the Peking-based Air China, which will handle international and major domestic services; the Shanghai-based China Eastern Airways, which will begin with major domestic routes but will eventually be another international airline; the Canton-based China Southern Airways, which will concentrate on domestic services before going international; the Chengdu-based China Southwestern Airways; and the China Capital Hillcopter Company.

There is apparently a great deal of interest in operating regional air services as dissatisfaction with CAAC is widespread in China. The breaking up of its monopoly is particularly significant for the Hong Kong airline, Cathay Pacific Airways, which wants to fly to more cities in China.

Sino-Soviet talks stress need for better relations

Peking - China and the Soviet Union have agreed on the need to improve their relations and increase economic and cultural exchanges, (Mary Lee writes).

A communiqué, issued after the fifth round of Sino-Soviet talks ended on Friday, said the talks were conducted in a frank, calm and earnest atmosphere. It was agreed to hold the sixth round next April in Moscow.

The communiqué, issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Saturday said both sides set forth their positions on normalizing relations and expressed a desire for improvements. They also stated their willingness to expand exchanges in economic, cultural, sports and other fields.

The chief Soviet negotiator at the talks, Mr Leonid Ilyichev, flew home to Moscow on Saturday.

Opposition seeks people's court for Aquino case

Manila - The Philippines National Assembly today debates an Opposition proposal for a special "people's court" to try General Fabian Ver, the armed forces Chief of Staff, and 25 others implicated in the murder of the opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, (Keith Dalton writes).

A bill sponsored by six opposition MPs says five "independent minded" judges under the supervision of the Supreme Court should try General Ver, two other generals, 22 military men and 4 civilians accused by an official report of the Aquino murder 14 months ago.

President Marcos has sent the case for preliminary investigation to the Ombudsman and, if a prima facie case exists, to a special tribunal which normally handles Civil Service corruption cases.

Pakistani women forced to march naked

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

The chairman of a union council in Pakistan's Multan district has been held responsible for forcing three women to march naked through the streets of Nawabpur in daylight earlier this year.

The district administration inquiry officer has asked him to explain why he should not be removed from office for his criminal act.

It was alleged in a report that the chairman and his sons undressed the women to avenge a personal insult. The inquiry officer said that the accused had a police record and was therefore unfit to be elected to public office in a system which General Zia ul-Haq wants to be established according to Islamic values.

In a separate incident in Multan district, influential residents of Basti Bohar in Rajanpur, and their henchmen, forced women to dance naked and their husbands to walk and bark like dogs. Both incidents were condemned by women's organizations. The district judge of Multan has issued arrest warrants for four people allegedly responsible for the second incident.

Meanwhile, a government commission on the status of women, composed mainly of women, has complained about the new law of evidence which is claimed to conform to Islamic concepts. The commission has been in existence since early this year to study the status of women in Pakistan and recommend steps for their emancipation.

Several women's organizations believe the law of evidence seeks to suppress and degrade the status of women.

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The Gandhi funeral

Platform of death will become new shrine for pilgrims

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

There is a new place of pilgrimage now on the banks of the holy river Jamuna. At present it is a dusty, roughly-built brick platform 7ft high on hastily levelled ground. Overhead the kites circle endlessly against the blue of the Delhi sky.

It lies between Rajghat, the government steps where the memorial to the Mahatma Gandhi's funeral pyre stands, and Shaantivana, the seat of peace where the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru, was cremated.

Soon the rough brick will be clothed in something more appropriate, and visitors will come to where on Saturday 400,000 people saw Indira Gandhi's body cremated.

That was a surprisingly small number, perhaps, when one remembers the two million or more who turned out for a glimpse of the Mahatma's funeral cortege. But on Saturday there were no trains running into Delhi, for fear of the vengeance of the mob. There were no buses; many had been burnt, and many simply stayed in the depot because of the city's unevenly enforced curfew.

Taxi driving is largely in the hand of the Sikh community, and no Sikh was going to venture onto the streets on this day of days. So the only way to get to the cremation ground was to walk.

Perhaps the surprising thing, then, was that so many did arrive to scramble on the landscaped slopes of the Mahatma's garden, and to mount fences or houses nearby to get a look.

The ceremony was carried out according to the Vedic rites by her son Rajiv, as prescribed in the Hindu religion - the first time one Prime Minister has officiated at another's cremation. Seven times he circled his mother's body, which was clad in a red and gold Sari and placed with her head to the north on a bed of sandalwood logs. He bore a burning brand, which he touched at each corner of the pyre, which was soaked in ghee or butter oil, and laced with incense and herbs.

As the fire caught, members of the family piled logs vertically around the body and poured on handfuls of incense and herbs. More ghee was poured, and honey. Fruit and flowers, too, were immolated with her.

There was then a very Indian scrimmage for position as more distant family, friends and political allies jostled to ascend the platform and assist. Mr Dhirendra Bhamnani, the late Prime Minister's disgraced guru, was asked to leave two or three times, but each time remounted.

Through all this Mr Rajiv Gandhi stood tall and still, looking perhaps taller and more drawn than before. He was wearing white homespun with a fore-and-aft white Congress cap and red-edged shawl over his shoulder. His small son Rahul and daughter Priyanka both seemed to have acquired a new dignity.

The body had been lying in state at Teen Murti House, where Mrs Gandhi acted as hostess while her father made it his Delhi home. Early in the morning, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Princess Anne paid their respects there, but many other visitors were turned away.

As the funeral procession assembled, distinguished and eminent Indians found it hard to squeeze by the Sikh major guarding the VIP gate.

Dr Karan Singh, the Maharajah of Kashmir, was at first turned away. So was Mr Swraj Paul, the London-based entrepreneur, who heads Caparo Industries. Even the Mayor of Delhi, Mr Mohinder Singh Saathi, a fellow Sikh, talked his way in only with difficulty.

The ashes of Mrs Gandhi's funeral pyre will be collected early today and distributed in urns to representatives of all the Indian states and union territories, enable people to pay their personal respects. They will then be returned to Delhi.

Leading article, page 15



Ritual of fire: Mr Rajiv Gandhi solemnly circulating the body of his mother before lighting her funeral pyre. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Delhi camps shelter Sikhs from mob's vengeance

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi

In Number Two Modern School, Ludlow Centre, to the north of the old walled city of Delhi, a huddle of families lie on blankets on the corridor floor. Mr Rajinder Singh, a frail old man in appearance but only 55 years old is being comforted by his wife. His young son is huddled in a corner staring into space.

Mr Rajinder Singh has lost two fingers of his right hand. His upper arm is a blue and purple mass of bruises. He has a weal 12 inches long and three inches wide on his back.

His long grey hair, grown under instructions of the tenth Sikh Guru, who laid down that no Sikh should cut his hair or beard, has been crudely amputated and his scalp slashed.

His 26-year-old son was beaten to death with iron rods. The crowd came, he said, at six o'clock on Thursday morning, looking for Sikhs, any Sikhs, on which to take revenge for the assassination of Mrs Gandhi.

His goldsmith's shop in Jahangirpur was a prime target. In addition to the pleasure of beating and killing was the added bonus of precious metal to loot. The shop was completely gutted.

All over the school, which has now become a refuge camp for up to 6,000 Sikhs, their wives and children, the same kind of story is echoed.

Mr Balvinder Singh, aged 20, from Anand Parbat, for example, is now clean-shaven. His neighbours and a gang of youths from elsewhere cut his hair, shaved his chin, and set his smit on fire.

Mrs Dushan Kaur (all Sikh women take the name of Kaur, meaning lioness, as all Sikh men are called Singh, meaning lion) sits in an untidy heap in the school playground. She is covered with blood from a beating in her home at Azadpur. "Three policemen came," she said. "They said 'you must run away in one minute or we cannot help you.' Mrs Kaur can now scarcely walk, but then she ran.

Many of the camp's inhabitants complain about the inattention of the police: according to Mr Rajinder Singh the police did not arrive at his goldsmith's shop for 80 hours after he summoned help.

But they are all grateful to be under the protection of the police now. A stiff police guard stands at the school gate keeping out allcomers, particularly if they come from the international press. A sub-divisional magistrate relented when the inmates protested and let The Times in.

Mr M M K Wali, sworn in yesterday as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, there are over 16,000 Sikhs in refuge camps on the city trying to find security from the vengeful feelings of their neighbours. That does not include those camping in Gurdwaras - Sikh temples - or in private shelters.

Food is being prepared centrally for the camp inhabitants. At present it mostly consists of vegetables and *Puris* - fried pancake of wheat dough. "We are accepting food from other sources, but supply to the camps is by us," Mr Wali said last night.

Mr Wali said also that anyone who wanted to leave the camps was being encouraged to, provided the authorities were satisfied they faced no danger by returning home.

"They can stay as long as they like in the camps," he said. "Theoretically it can be a century, but we do not think it will take long."

Parents of kidnap six offer reward of £60,000

Harare (AP) - The parents of six foreign tourists kidnapped by Zimbabwe rebels in 1982 are now offering a reward of up to 100,000 Zimbabwe dollars (£60,000) for information leading to the recovery of their bodies.

They also promise "much, much more" in rewards for information proving they are alive.

The six tourists, Brett Baldwin, aged 23 at the time, and Kevin Ellis, aged 24, both Americans, Tony Bajzelj, 25, and William Butler, 31, Australians, and James Greenwell, 18, and Martyn Hodgson, 35, British were taken hostage by rebels north of Bulawayo on July 23, 1982.

Gas kills miners

Johannesburg (AP) - Eight black miners died from gas poisoning in an underground fire at the Buffelsfontein gold mine 110 miles west of Johannesburg at the weekend. Of eight others missing, seven had been found alive by late yesterday. Thick smoke was hampering rescue efforts.

Ocean snares

Geneva (Reuters) - Lost and discarded fishing gear entangles and kills about 500,000 seabirds and 10,000 Dall's Porpoise every year, according to the World Wildlife Fund. The use of plastics in the nets and not twine made it more difficult for marine animals to detect them acoustically.

Yacht saved

Perth (Reuters) - The Australian Government is to buy Australia 11, the yacht which wrested the America's Cup away from the United States last year. After test runs and restoration, it will eventually be placed in the care of the Museum of Australia, opening in Canberra in 1990.

Madrid shooting

Madrid (Reuters) - A gunman carrying a false Moroccan passport was arrested shortly after he shot and wounded a Lebanese citizen, Elias Joussef Assaad, aged 44, in a central Madrid shopping mall. It was the fifth attack on Arabs in Spain this year.

Lake choked

Moscow (Reuters) - Industrial waste flowing into Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake, has poisoned many fish, and quick-growing weed is threatening to choke all life in its waters, Trud reported. Wastewater factories were not monitoring toxic waste.

Flood terror

Bogotá (Reuters) - A state of emergency was declared in Colombia after floods killed at least 30 people and left 5,000 families homeless. The Magdalena river burst its banks and coffee and cotton crops were threatened.

Parthenon strip

Athens (AP) - Three young American male tourists were charged under the indecency law for stripping during a visit to the Acropolis and posing for nude photographs outside the Parthenon temple.

Helicopter down

Peking (Reuters) - Two Americans and three Chinese were presumed dead after a helicopter chartered by a US oil company crashed into the South China Sea.

Fatal blast

Mondejar, (AFP) - A container of bottled gas exploded here in this Spanish town north of Madrid, killing five people and injuring six others.

Election day in Nicaragua

Calm and orderly start to voting

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Voters went to the polls yesterday morning in Nicaragua's first post-revolutionary election in an atmosphere of order and tranquility.

Disciplined lines began to form at the 3,892 polling stations round the country just before voting began at 7 am, and in the first few hours it seemed that most of the 1,551,597 registered voters were keen to make their choice for President, Vice-President and National Assembly early in the day.

Polling stations in the capital were rarely more than a few blocks apart, three miles in the countryside, and nowhere were queues more than about 100 long. At many of them the elderly were being allowed to jump the lines, which moved slowly but steadily. Public employees had been advised to vote at staggered intervals to avoid jams.

Security was evident but police and soldiers at the booths were not displaying weapons. All radio stations were tuned to a special election-day music programme called "The First Free Elections", which broadcast reports of orderly voting from remote parts of the country amid repeated reminders to listeners that "Your vote is secret". Voters cast their ballots behind a dark-blue curtain and placed them in sealed urns under the supervision of independent observers and opposition party scrutineers.

Everybody I talked to seemed to know where and how they were to vote, and many older people readily admitted this was the first time in their lives they were doing so.

Murder of priest casts shadow over Rifkind visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Britain today makes its contribution to easing Nato's diplomatic boycott of Poland with the visit to Warsaw of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

The visit is overshadowed by the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest who was buried on Saturday. The caravan of Western visitors this autumn was supposed to give the impression of a concerted move by the Polish Government towards conciliation with the West, and indeed with its own people. But the priest's murder by secret police officers has shaken relations with the Roman Catholic Church and has exposed cracks in the party leadership.

Mr Rifkind is the first Nato minister to visit Warsaw since martial law, excluding Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister who has always opposed Nato sanctions against Poland.

Mr Rifkind, though interested in stimulating trade with Britain, will have rather more limited ambitions and, it is understood, will not be shy of raising human rights issues.

● LONDON: Tom Stoppard's controversial television film about Solidarity, *Squaring the Circle*, has won a gold award at the International Film and Television Festival in New York, and is shortlisted for an International Emmy, America's top television prize, later this month (David Hewson writes).

The film, seen on Channel 4 in May, has been sold to Polish Television, although no date for transmission there has been fixed.



Mr Rifkind: Not afraid to raise human rights.

Enter the intelligent computer

From David Watts Tokyo

A Japanese electronics firm claims to have made a big advance in the world race to develop a fifth-generation computer.

Fifth-generation computers will be able to think, and Nippon Electronic Company (NEC) says it has developed the first artificial intelligence in a computer with practical applications.

NEC says its computer is capable of designing its own super large-scale integrated circuits. Such circuits could be designed in the past with the help of a mini-computer, but no computer had been able to do the work on its own.

The new artificial intelligence, for which a new computer language has been developed, can also be employed in many areas of computer-aided design.

The company is to give details of its invention at an international conference on fifth-generation computers which opens in Tokyo tomorrow. It will be attended by 1,000 representatives from 30 countries, including Britain.

Liberals halt poll slide but Hawke well ahead

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

There might just be the slightest doubt creeping into the mind of Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, that announcing an election so many weeks before the event might have been a mistake.

While it would be virtually impossible for Labour to lose on December 1, it might not be quite the walkover the first weeks of the campaign suggested.

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Opposition leader, has stuck to his task doggedly and ignored the popularity polls, which showed his personal rating sliding downwards, and kept whittling away at the Government on taxation, capital-gains tax, the assets test and pensions, generally to good effect.

Last week two tiny thins of light appeared at the end of the tunnel in the form of opinion polls which at last indicated that Mr Peacock's downward slide had hit bottom and that the Liberals were picking up support. Admittedly Mr Peacock's personal popularity is still extremely low, but at least the trend is now in the right direction.

First there was a Gallup poll published in *The Bulletin* news magazine which showed his popularity has risen from 19 per cent to 25 per cent, while the Opposition's rating had moved up one point to 41 per cent.

A second was a poll in *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne two days later which indicated the Opposition had cut back Labour's massive lead of 20 per cent, which *The Age* poll revealed two weeks earlier, to 17 per cent.

The shift towards the Liberals was evident in every state and was most striking among younger people and blue-collar workers.

However, a day later *The Age* published another poll which showed Mr Hawke had maintained his immense lead in the personal popularity ratings over Mr Peacock. But it did show that Mr Peacock's rating jumped markedly in the second part of the polling period.

In the opening shots of the campaign Mr Peacock undoubtedly caught the Government on the wrong foot over the capital gains tax issue, and the Opposition has managed to keep the taxation issue simmering since the first weeks and looks likely to continue to score political points in the weeks to come.

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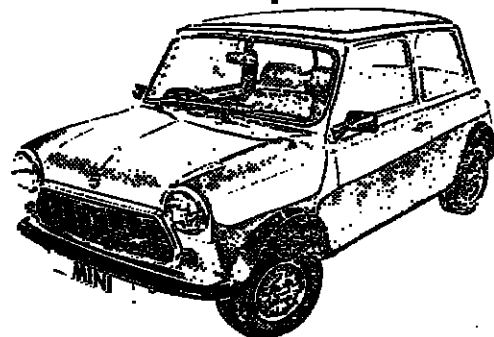
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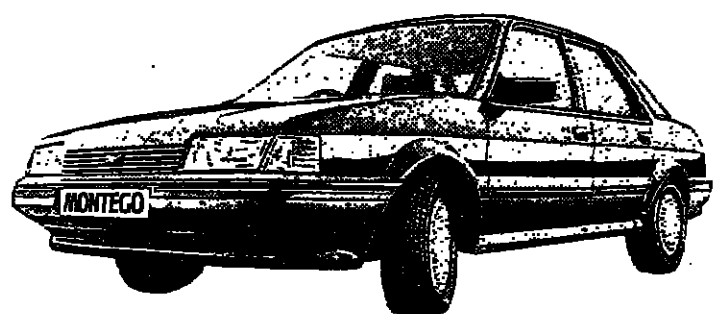
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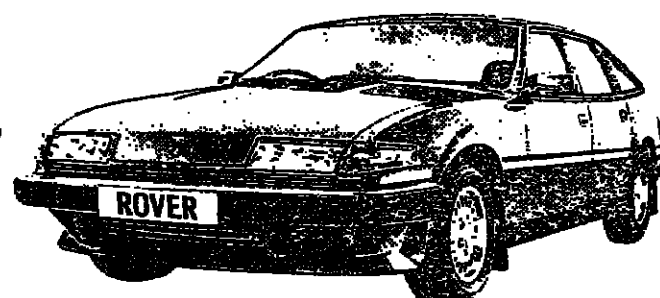
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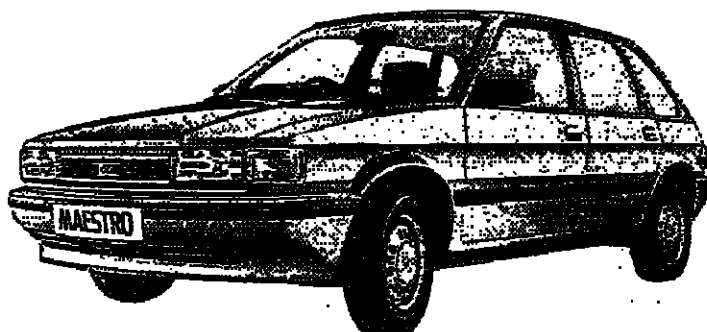
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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

A settlement has now been reached on the controversial question of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's budget for next year. So the issue will not after all have to go before the Cabinet at Thursday's critical meeting on public expenditure.

The Treasury wanted to cut the FCO budget by a sum approaching £30m and found a broadly sympathetic response in the Star Chamber of senior ministers trying to reconcile the differences between the Treasury and the spending departments.

But how the savings are to be found has yet to be determined by the FCO. Whether the agreement will be in due course seen to be in the national interest as well as to the advantage of the Treasury will depend on the precise nature of these economies.

In any exercise of this sort there are bound to be cuts which have to be assessed on a detailed calculation of costs and benefits. They may be well or ill judged, but they do not raise fundamental questions. Public opinion needs to become acutely only if deeper issues are involved.

Better uses for public money

The test of any economies in the Foreign Office budget is whether in the search to save money two basic principles are still observed: that diplomacy remains the principal function of a diplomatic service and that it would be contrary to the national interest for the British diplomatic presence to be substantially diminished in any critical part of the world.

There is talk of closing down a number of consulates in Western Europe. Their main activities are export promotion and assisting Britons who get into difficulties abroad. But one can think of better uses for public money than bailing out drunken football supporters and helping careless holiday-makers who lose their passports.

As for export promotion, the case has been canvassed for leaving this to private hands in the OECD area. In other parts of the world the helping hand of the British Government is necessary to enable potential exporters to find their way round unfamiliar obstacles. But in the OECD countries, it is argued, why should such a body as the CBI not help exporters to make money for themselves?

Whether this would be a good idea seems to me a question of practicality not of principle. It is often a useful subsidiary function if British diplomats can boost the export drive. But it is not what they are best at, and it is not the main reason for having a diplomatic service.

Danger in the blind spot

If British consulates on the Mediterranean islands were to be closed, this too would be an inconvenience to holidaymakers and might provoke a fuss in Parliament. If British representation in the South Pacific were to be withdrawn, or at least severely curtailed, there would be objections on grounds of sentiment.

But neither of these decisions would be of great consequence for British diplomacy. Nor, one must add, would they save all that much money.

The real danger seems to be that a number of embassies might be shut down in Latin America. This is a part of the world where we have both direct and indirect interests, but which has traditionally been something of a British blind spot.

We are not represented there now as adequately as we should be. We do not have separate missions in every country of Latin and Central America. Nor are they properly staffed. In the Falklands crisis there was only one full-time information officer in the whole of Latin America.

The need to win over public opinion in the area has not diminished since then. Indeed, for a British Government that is determined to maintain sovereignty over the Falklands against Argentine objections the case for strong British diplomatic activity in the rest of Latin America should be all the greater.

In one sense the need for Britain to keep in touch with what is happening in Central and Latin America is also greater. Grenada showed how easily Anglo-American relations could become fouled up by misunderstandings in the southern hemisphere. That danger will be all the greater if the British Government prefers to mae false economics rather than to remain well informed.

Moral Majority awaits its greatest triumph and legislative rewards

Despite Mr Walter Mondale's often repeated assertion that God is not a Republican, the Almighty has been corralled by America's politically influential fundamentalist Christian churches into campaigning for President Reagan.

With the avowed intention of "Christianizing" government in the United States, conservative evangelists have carried out a massive voter registration drive to ensure the President's reelection tomorrow and boost the number of conservatives in the Senate and House.

The religious Right claims to have registered more than two million new voters this year, considerably outstripping the number of black voters that the Rev Jesse Jackson has signed up for the Democratic Party.

According to Mr Gary Jarmin, national field director for the American Coalition for Traditional Values, an umbrella group for an array of fundamentalist churches, as many as five million more conservative evangelicals will cast their ballot this year, compared with the 18 million who turned out to vote for Mr Reagan in 1980.

The Religious Right has been helping President Reagan's reelection effort in other ways. A fund-raising group, the Christian Voice Moral Government Fund, has spent more

than \$1m (£800,000) on the campaign, much of it on anti-Mondale television commercials.

The Rev Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, best known of the fundamentalist groups, has also contributed heavily. He full resources of what is known as the Electronic Church - the multitude of television and radio stations which are listened to by a congregation of up to 100 million a week - have also been placed at the President's disposal, although they are not supposed openly to canvass support for any candidate.

Mr Falwell, who hosts a weekly show called the *Old Time Gospel Hour*, has described Mr Reagan and Vice-President Bush as God's instruments in rebuilding America.

The evangelist, who travels round the country in a private jet, is a frequent visitor at the White House. He played over the Republican convention in Dallas and was an important influence in shaping the most conservative Republican manifesto in years.

The Rev James Bakker, another hellfire and brimstone preacher, told viewers of his *Praise the Lord Club* that President Reagan was a moral man who was "on our side". Christian Voice has published a 40-page "biblical scorecard"

listing "morality ratings" of Presidential, vice-presidential and congressional candidates.

They are not simply rated according to their attitudes on moral issues, such as abortion and religious freedom, but also on defence, education and the economy. To be opposed to President Reagan's defence build-up earns a black mark. A vote to eliminate shelters for battered women is "pro-Christian". Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, was given an 82 per cent "un-Christian" rating on her report card.

The Religious Right hopes its efforts to ensure Mr Reagan's re-election will be rewarded by even more conservative domestic policies during a second term. The fundamentalists' political programme is ambitious. Apart from banning abortion, reintroducing prayer in public schools and tax exemptions for church-affiliated schools, they also want to put God back into government. As the Rev Tim Lahaye, chairman of the Coalition for Traditional Values put it, the problem with America... we do not have enough of God's ministers running the country. We must flood the federal bureaucracy with Christians.

Immediate targets are to clamp down on homosexuality, pornography and other forms of permissiveness, and give priority to private education over the public schooling system. They also have their eye on the Supreme Court, where as many as five justices may be retiring in the next presidential term.

Mr Mondale has denounced the political sermonizing of the Religious Right as moral McCarthyism and accused the Reagan Administration of opening its arms to zealots on the extreme fringe who seek government powers to impose their beliefs on others.

Reagan rides high on John Wayne trail

From Christopher Thomas, St Louis, Missouri

President Reagan has gone home to California to accept his final election triumph. He sped through the rest of the country in five days to almost faultless campaigning orchestrated down to the last hour. It did not feel like an election tour, more like a 10,000-mile victory lap.

Not a poll nor a pundit disputes the outcome of the election tomorrow. "ah, allow my opponent a little superstition", Mr Reagan said. He made a few blunders on the way to California, but everyone expects that of him. He is protected by the Teflon factor, nothing sticks.

The actor broke loose in the quiet backwater of Winnetka in the corn country of Iowa, birthplace of Marion Michael Morrison. Most people knew him as John Wayne.

The wind was howling down South Street, which looked like a film set with all the cameras, police, security guards and Secret Service agents. The bizarre circus turned suddenly into a press conference about Mrs Gandhi's assassination. CIA tactics in Nicaragua and Mr Reagan's assertion that taxes would be raised only over his dead body.

Then came the acid question: did he think John Wayne would have only taken the Green Berets into Nicaragua? Mr Reagan laughed heartily at the very thought. "No, he'd just go in by himself".

The multitude of rallies the President has headed since he left the White House last Wednesday were treated to the same speech, although he always included a local sporting allusion. The routine in Little Rock, Arkansas, went thus:

Audience: "Four more years, four more years, four more years". Reagan: "That's what I came to talk to you about. Thank you, thank you. It's wonderful to be the first President since Harry Truman to stay overnight in Little Rock. Now, I understand the Razorbacks have a big game this evening. How do you think they're going to do?" Audience: "Win, win".

Reagan: How do you think we'll do?" Audience: "Win win".

It was much the same everywhere. President Reagan has the uncanny ability to turn an election rally into the oratorical equivalent of a Punch and Judy show.

Fourth try by the man who always loses

From Walter Goodman, (NYT), New York

At 74 years of age Gus Hall is the oldest candidate in the 1984 presidential race, leading President Reagan by a year.

This is the fourth time that Mr Hall, a Communist for nearly 60 years and the Communist Party's general secretary since 1959, is heading its national ticket. In 1980, with Miss Angela Davis, the black militant, as his running mate, he received 45,000 votes, fewer than half the number William

Foster obtained in the party's record year of 1932.

The Communist Party programme has not changed much in a half century. At a rally at City College in New York on October 21, Mr Hall told about 1,000 supporters that there was absolutely nothing that is wrong with the United States that socialism will not correct or set right.

Arvo Gus Hallberg, born in Iron, Minnesota, to a Finnish immigrant couple who were charter members of the American Communist Party, joined the party when he was 16. After a period of training at the Lenin institute, Moscow, he returned to the United States, changed his name and participated in the Congress of Industrial Organizations' organizing drive in the steel industry.

Mr Hall served in the Navy in the Second World War and spent 5½ years in the 1950s in the Federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, for conspiring to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the Government.

Miss Davis, now 40, is again running for Vice-President on the Communist ticket.



Mr Hall: Oldest runner in the field.

Tories sharpen axe for Ottawa spending cuts

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's Progressive Conservative Government has steered a slow course to the right since taking office a month and a half ago.

The pace of change from the long era of Liberal rule is expected to speed up as the Tories consolidate their hold on power in the new Parliament, which opens today with the Speech from the Throne outlining the Government's legislative intentions.

Just as eagerly anticipated is an economic statement to be delivered in the Commons on Thursday night by Mr Michael Wilson, the Finance Minister.

This statement, or mini-budget, will detail the state of the economy bequeathed by the Liberals. The picture will be anything but rosy.

There have been rumours that the deficit for the current fiscal year is several billion

dollars more than the \$30bn (£18bn) projected by the Liberals.

The precarious financial situation may be used by the Government to justify a cautious approach to keeping the long list of Tory election promises.

The new House of Commons offers a startling contrast to the previous one, in which the Liberals held a clear majority. Now the Tories have 211 seats against only 40 for the Liberals and 31 for the New Democratic Party (NDP).

A public opinion poll published at the weekend actually put the two Opposition parties, neck-and-neck, with the Liberals supported by 21 per cent of decided voters and the NDP 20 per cent. Conservatives at 58 per cent were eight points up from election night.

The Ethiopian airlift

RAF relief project leads the way

From Thomson Prentice Addis Ababa

Thousands of Ethiopian famine victims were receiving the first food supplies to them by the Royal Air Force mercy mission yesterday.

An airlift scheduled to operate daily for three months began yesterday morning when two of the Hercules planes, which arrived from Britain on Saturday began a 1,000-mile shuttle service to relieve some of the worst-affected areas.

They flew 400 miles north-east from Addis Ababa to Asseb, the country's main port, to load grain from the 35,000-ton stockpile being unloaded from a fleet of cargo ships.

From there the planes flew west into northern central Ethiopia and remote landing strips at Aksum and Mekele, where thousands of refugees face death through starvation and disease.

The planes were met by relief workers, who helped RAF crews to unload about 12 tons of grain from each aircraft, which then flew back to Asseb to load up again. By squeezing three such runs into each day, the RAF hopes to airlift a total of about 100 tons of food a day.

The two areas have depended until now on supplies reaching them by lorry, but a shortage of vehicles, to distances involved and the poor state of the few roads has meant that help has come too late for many people.

The fast start to the RAF project, Operation Bushel, was due to a remarkable five-hour reconnaissance sortie by one of the Hercules from Addis Ababa on Saturday, during which the safety and suitability of the landing strips at Asseb, Aksum and Mekele were put to the test.

The flight, in which I took part, vividly revealed the dreadful impact of the drought on vast areas of the country.

Much of this central highland plateau is savagely gaunt in the best of seasons, but the absence of rain for as long as a decade has charred valleys and once fertile plains into nightmarish landscapes.

We saw many villages and hamlets with not a sign of life, animal or human. These communities look to have been abandoned by some of the six million people affected by the drought, half a million of whom

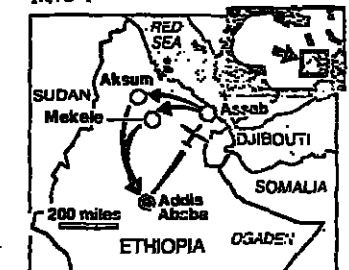


Hope in sight: A child in Wollo province, 200 miles from Addis Ababa. (Photograph: Peter Dunne).

When the Hercules returned to Addis Ababa we found that three giant Russian AN22 transports had landed, bringing helicopters to assist the general relief work.

That the RAF operation began yesterday is being seen here as a considerable boost to British prestige in Ethiopia. Although Russia and other eastern block countries are sending aircraft to transport food, Britain was the first foreign power to get such an operation under way.

Wing Commander Barry Nunn who is in charge of the RAF operation in Ethiopia, was met at the airport by the British Ambassador, Sir Brian Barber and his wife, and by Mr Habtumarion Ayenscheu, deputy commissioner of Ethiopia's relief and rehabilitation commission, who said: "Your support will save a lot of lives. Our people are starving, but if you can reach them they will survive. You are very welcome here".



● LONDON: Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was flying to Ethiopia last night for a five-day tour of famine areas and meetings with voluntary workers on the spot and those responsible for coordinating the aid effort (the Press Association reports). Before leaving, he said he felt it necessary to discover the cause of apparent delays and confusion in getting help to the suffering.

"There is great and understandable frustration in this country about that. It is one of the urgent matters to which I and my colleagues must pay close attention while in Ethiopia."

3500 years ago the wisest man who ever lived made an observation of stunning simplicity. "There is nothing new under the sun," he said.

To be perfectly honest he should have added, "Except the price." As an example, look what's happened in the last 20 years to a few of the things it would be rather nice to look forward to.

A 5 bedroom farmhouse with a few acres in the home counties has gone from £12,000 to nearly £200,000.

An XKE Jaguar was £1,850. Its replacement, the XJS, will set you back around £20,000.

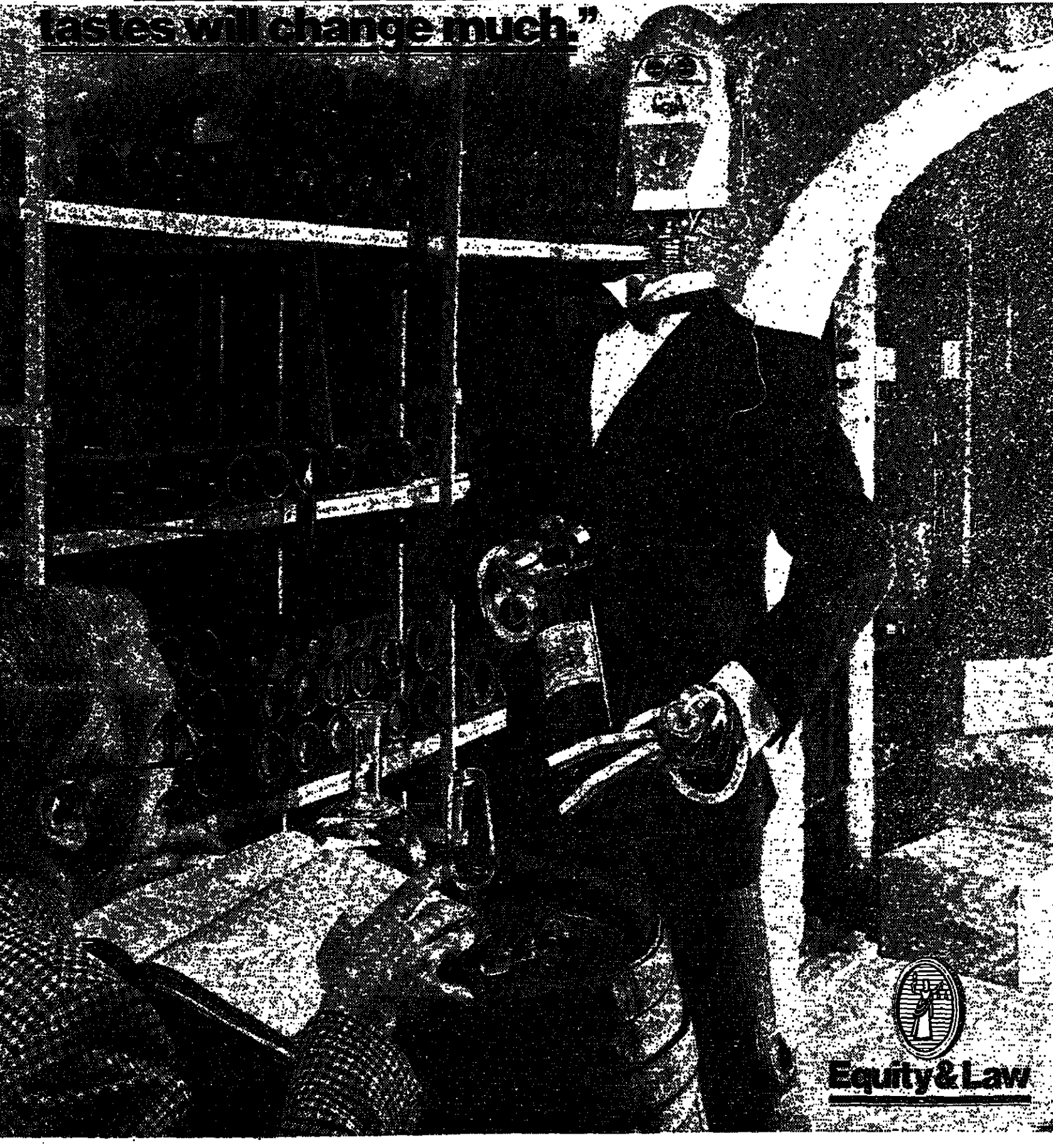
And the price of 61 Lafite has doubled 6 times from £3.50 to over £250 a bottle.

Very scary figures if you apply them to the next 20 years.

"Whatever the future holds

I don't expect my

tastes will change much."



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THE ARTS

Television

The Trial of Richard III (Channel 4) was billed as England's "greatest historical mystery". This was something of an overstatement, even from the lips of the present Duke of Gloucester, but it may have been the only plausible way of preparing an audience for some four hours of historical reconstruction.

Crown Court, and all the conventions of legal soap opera, were taken back into the fifteenth century as two eminent barristers cross-questioned a number of historians and interested parties about the fate of the two princes and the extent of Richard's guilt.

"Pro-Ricardians" and "anti-Ricardians" fought their battles with as much ferocity as Richard's own contemporaries, but perhaps to less effect. Oscar Wilde once said that truth was the last thing to be found in the well of a court, and the historians involved in this particular legal process did not exactly parade the virtues of scholarship.

If one thing did become clear, however, it was the relativity of historical interpretation: the "facts" began to fall apart as soon as they were examined by the barristers and, as the truth became more elusive the more assiduously it was sought, the only possible response was one of watchful scepticism. For that reason alone, this lengthy enterprise had a genuine if sometimes macabre fascination.

Omnibus (BBC 1) examined the state of contemporary art, which was variously described by the participants as "rawer", "hotter" and "more passionate". It is difficult to know what such terms mean: certainly modern painting seems to have side-stepped what at one point seemed the ineluctable progress of "modernism", with a reversion to broadly figurative imagery, but the results are mixed. In many cases one received the impression of a banality not unaccompanied by grandiloquence, and a sentimentality allied with theatricality; but if you are to return to representationalism, perhaps a certain amount of melodrama is needed to fuel or, at least, to justify the attempt.

Peter Ackroyd

Akira Kurosawa based *Throne of Blood* on Macbeth. His latest film *Ran* is inspired by another tragedy. David Robinson reports from Tokyo

King Lear gets the Kurosawa touch

A new film by Akira Kurosawa is a momentous event. The Tokyo veteran is one of the very few artists of indisputable greatness produced by the cinema; yet since 1965 he has made only three films. This small output has not been of his choosing, except in as far as it results from his demands for artistic autonomy.

The misfortunes of his later years began when he became involved with Hollywood, as the intended director of *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Total breakdown of communication - the Americans regarded his kind of perfectionism as clinical lunacy - led to his removal from the project.

He raised the small budget needed to make *Dodeska Den*, a reinterpretation of *The Lower Depths* "partly to prove that I wasn't insane". After that, a mastodon survival in an industry in accelerating economic and artistic decline, he was not able to find financing in Japan. Kurosawa passed into a period of sickness, despair and attempted suicide.

He recovered. *Derzu Uzala* which won the 1976 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, was financed by Mosfilm; *Kagemusha*, Golden Palm winner at the 1980 Cannes Festival, was made with American money organized by Kurosawa's admirers Francis Ford Coppola, director of *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now*, and George Lucas, writer-director of *Star Wars*.

Now it is thanks to a partnership with the remarkable French producer Serge Silberman, who made possible most of the later films of Luis Bunuel, that Akira Kurosawa has been able to embark on his most ambitious and important project. *Ran* - the Japanese word means "chaos".

Kurosawa has nurtured the project for at least eight years, since the completion of *Derzu Uzala*. It is directly inspired by *King Lear*, as *Throne of Blood* was based on *Macbeth* and *The Lower Depths* on *Dostoevsky*. *Ran* were freely adapted from Gorki.

"In order to write scripts," Kurosawa wrote in a guide for young

film makers, "you must first study the great novels and dramas of the world. You must consider why they are great. Where does the emotion come from? What do you feel as you read them? What degree of passion did the author have to have, what level of meticulousness did he have to command, in order to portray the characters and events as he did? You must read thoroughly to the point where you can grasp all these things."

The story is set in turbulent sixteenth-century Japan. Lear's three daughters are changed into the three sons of the Great Lord Hidetora, to give more credibility in the historical context. Strong elements of Regan, Goneril remain, however, in the character of the first son's wife, who subsequently becomes the paramour and evil genius of the second son also. The lady is partly motivated by revenge for the Great Lord's former suppression of her clan: Kurosawa has introduced as an important new element of the drama the notion of retribution and the memory of the old man's former tyrannies.

"With a good script, a good director can produce a masterpiece; with the same script a mediocre director can make a passable film." Even in a tentative translation, *Ran* is by any standard an outstanding piece of film writing, powerfully structured in the three-part form which Kurosawa favours and which he attributes to origins in the Noh drama, with its classic division into Introduction, Destruction and final Haste and Resolution.

It would be hard to doubt Kurosawa's ability to turn it into a masterpiece. At 74 he looks fitter than he has for years, glowing with new energy and determination. He has been at work on the film since January, though the first five months were spent in concentrated rehearsal, with the actors living themselves into their costumes, mastering horse-riding and generally submerging themselves in the role.

By now Tatsuyo Nakadai, who was also the leading actor in *Kagemusha*,

Cinema



The statuesque old monarch with attendant, garbed in stripes: Tatsuyo Nakadai and Peter on location

appears quite incapable of casting off, even in private life, the gigantic majesty of the Great Lord.

The relationship of the Lord and the Fool are essential to Kurosawa's reading; and the on-screen relationship between the players appears to continue even off-camera. The spectacle of the statuesque old monarch and the diminutive attendant, fantastically garbed in bright spots and stripes, impresses itself on the mind's eye like Charlie and the Kid.

Kurosawa's colleagues were surprised and even dismayed when he cast as the Fool a popular television entertainer, known simply as "Peter", whose performance is normally in travesty - off-stage also he prefers to dress as a transvestite. It is evident that Kurosawa had already perceived some special quality in him.

After months of choreographic work with Noh actors and the film's internationally known composer, Toru Takemitsu, Peter is revealed, in the role of this steely little elf, as an actor of extraordinary power.

The spectacular *Kagemusha* now appears as a kind of rehearsal for *Ran*. For the great battle scenes, shot in Kyushu, Kurosawa used 1,000 extras and 200 horses, 50 of them specially flown from the United States. On screen the numbers will appear multiplied, as extras and horses all did service in each of the three warring armies, identified by their blue, red and white pennants.

Kurosawa films may cost a lot of money, but all of it is seen on the screen.

With some 85 per cent of the film already shot, Kurosawa was filming there last week, concentrating on the scene where the Great Lord's son turns away his retinue of warriors and concubines. In the background the conical peak of Fuji came and went in its special Cheshire Cat fashion.

The weather was as unpredictable as the mountain: one day the film was rained off, another they were rehearsing in a cloud mist so thick that neither the actors nor the braziers around which the technicians huddled were visible beyond a yard or two.

Kurosawa appeared in remarkably good spirits for a man with a reputation for being temperamental and difficult; he even dissembled his proverbial impatience with the press, who were visiting the set and clicking their cameras inconsiderately. He is instantly visible on the set, striding about, well over 6ft and consequently towering over everyone else in the vicinity.

He keeps his eyes on the three cameras that he uses simultaneously, watches constantly for the exact effect he wants from the ever-changing light on Fuji, unobtrusively guides the actors, and still manages to find time for such details as wavy make-up or a malfunctioning door mechanism.

Kurosawa is a tough taskmaster, but Japanese film actors and technicians work hard and unquestioningly, without a thought of meal breaks or overtime. "Unions are not a restrictive force here", says Silberman happily.

If any film seemed bound for success it should be this. *Ran* is scheduled for completion early in the New Year, will probably open the first Tokyo International Film Festival in June, and have a world-wide release next autumn.

While preparing a new Bunuel film which was destined never to be finished, Silberman suffered a bad car accident that would have retired any other man of his age. Still on crutches, he travelled the world for nearly two years in quest for money to set up *Ran* and eventually raised the necessary \$11m, a modest enough budget by Hollywood standards but monumental both for Japan and for Silberman, who has never hitherto made a film costing a fifth of the sum.

In the end there was Japanese investment, with the proprietors of *The Nippon Herald* imaginatively contributing rather more than half the budget, while Silberman found the rest in France.

No producer ever dares to seem too confident about his film but Silberman is fearlessly impatient about the risk. "I calculate at most I could lose a million and a half. And if I do I shall not starve. But whatever happens, I have the satisfaction that long after I die, *Ran* will still survive."

PUBLISHING

Books going to a good home

Dr Barnardo's had better want 10,000 children's books. That is the quantity likely to be given to them by publishers between now and January. For every Post-A-Book transaction ("A Royal Mail Service: available only at bookshops") during the three months, publishers will present another book to Dr Barnardo's.

Author Leslie Thomas, who was brought up in a Barnardo's Home, will be on hand to help the Book Marketing Council to publicize the promotion, which should be a profitable exercise for publishers, booksellers, the Post Office and the charity, if not the children's authors who, presumably, will not receive royalties on the donated books.

You have heard of mass market paperbacks - the kind of tomes that Pan, for instance, has published successfully down the years. Pan has sold nearly three million copies of Douglas Adams's first three books, of which the first, *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, has topped one million.

All three titles were published as paperback originals, then Weidenfeld & Nicolson brought out modest hardcover editions. Mr Adams's new title, *So Long and Thanks for All the Fish*, is published on November 23 in a first printing of 50,000 copies. In hardback, that is, not paperback, making it Pan's first mass market hardback indeed, probably the largest first printing of any general hardback this autumn.

Unlike certain other companies or individuals who sponsor literary awards, Whitbread rings the changes most years. This time there is a new prize for the best short story by a writer aged between 16 and 25, which is tough luck on the precocious 15-year-olds. The judges are Martin Amis, possibly too old to submit, and Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, managing director of Hamish Hamilton, which will publish an anthology of the shortlisted titles.

As more people seem to write poems than read them, so do I receive more letters asking how to find a publisher than on any other aspect of the book trade. The following is typical:

"I have spent three years on a political thriller, only to find myself bogged down by what seems the Catch 22 of the publishing world. Any agent I contact is only interested in those writers who have been published previously. The publishing houses will only entertain those writers who have agents."

The letter, unlike some of its kind, is courteous, and its 24-year-old writer clearly bewildered. Why does it never occur to those whose manuscripts are endlessly rejected that possibly, just possibly, they are not good enough for publication? Jane Somers found a publisher, so - after 99 attempts or whatever it was - did *Room at the Top*. There is no "system" which ensures that the "best" books are published, or for that matter that they win the literary prizes.

André Deutsch and Tom Rosenthal are less the Rosencranzes and Guildensterns of contemporary British publishers than the Sancho Panzas and Don Quixotes. Anyway, Mr Rosenthal, who has joined Mr Deutsch, insists that the name of the imprint they will jointly run, André Deutsch Ltd, will not be changed.

Either way, the coming together in Great Russell Street of these two bookmen of unusual force, charm, passion and commitment to their own publishing genius is one, even two, in the eye for the side rules and pin-striped suits which mainly manage publishing.

Authors will believe it when the advances offered by Mr D and Mr R are on a par with those proffered by the conglomerates. If Deutschental & Rosenthal do not, within the next few years, have the liveliest, most provocative and best written list in town it can be only because others have paid more for the books they want, and writers cannot live on imprints alone.

E. J. Craddock

Hilary Finch

Pop

Floy Joy Wag Club

Judging by the packed house for Floy Joy's debut London date, the word is already out on this charming new jazz funk outfit. Though they take their name from an old Supremes song and their sound from black American music of the past 30 years, Floy Joy's hybrid approach is rooted in Sheffield.

Floy Joy are basically the brainchild of the brothers Ward - Shaun, who plays bass, and Michael, who excels on sax and flute. The Wards are strong writers with a rare talent for sniffling out fresh modes of presentation. They have worked with Don Was of Was Not Was fame, Kid Creole's Coati Mundi and various members of the superfunk band Parliament.

The net result is that Floy Joy have arrived on a style both angular and danceable.

Max Bell

Concert

BBC SO/Pritchard Festival Hall

Programming new works can often produce meaningless conflicts of interest, but Friday night's BBC Symphony Orchestra concert was ideally planned to welcome a big new piece by Simon Bainbridge, his Fantasia for two orchestras.

The set, based on their album *Into The Hot*, gives full indication of Floy Joy's potential for slinky rhythm and ambitious structure. Michael Ward counters the grooves with sax playing that suggests a close affinity for the jazz greats. Some of his solos recalled a Coltrane or a Kirk, in purpose if not panache, but his presence ensures that no one is certain just where an arrangement will end up. The collision of sounds works, however - the audience was too enthralled to be bemused.

Evidently Floy Joy are aiming high. They seem to have the ability to live with the best.

Max Bell

Tarkovsky's turmoil

Boris Godunov Covent Garden

Boris Godunov is far more than a spectacular pageant of Russian historical scenes. It is the interior, mental drama of the people caught up in those powerful and disturbing events - and this Andrei Tarkovsky's brilliant imaginative, superlatively realized production, which returned to Covent Garden on Friday night, demonstrates with gripping conviction and theatrical effectiveness. It is a triumph and, more importantly, a subtle, equivocating triumph.

Tarkovsky's production, which has been rehearsed by Stephen Lawless, does not miss the passionate sweep of the crowd, the eruptions of violence of the sudden order imposed by the blood-red boyars as they pour down the giant ramp that fills the centre stage. But there is often a potent conflict between the ever-moving activity on stage and the crucial events which Robert Bryars's lighting, fiercely concentrated, vividly atmospheric - picks out for us. And a potent conflict, too, between the activity and the music, between the display of public pomp and the harrowing hollowness beneath it.

Boris is now sung by the Bulgarian Nicola Ghiuselev (this was to have been a strongly Russian revival with Evgeny Nesterenko replacing Robert Lloyd in the title role and Evgeny Svetlanov conducting, but both were unable to appear). Though he sings rather drily and the characterization is restrained, he always holds the attention. He is a tottering ruler from the first moment we see him, suggesting slightly as he reveals his inner terror, then lunging, disrupting the formal ranks of boyars; enveloping himself in the giant map of Russia in which his fate and that of his heir are inextricably entangled; and finally, in an unforgettable picture, straining desperately towards his throne helped by his son as Shuisky looks on.

Paul Griffiths

Nicholas Kenyon

Opera

Medea/Médée Opéra de Lyon

Lyon, like Buxton last summer, is rediscovering Medea. Cherubini's version will receive a concert performance here next April; now the Opéra is concentrating on Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and, to complement his *Medée*, is staging the world premiere of a new *Medea* by Gavin Bryars and Robert Wilson.

The Bryars/Wilson collaboration has clearly been a source of fertile new stimulus - for Bryars after his work with Raymond Roussel, and for Wilson whose recent *CIVIL WARS* used the music of Charpentier's own *Medée* prologue. Their joint responses to Euripides have thrown up something very rich and very strange. Their *Medea* has been slow in evolving, through three years of conception and three months of rehearsal in Lyon.

It all passes like a frieze of dream sequences, episodes mimed, as it were, in slow, hieratic gesture of great beauty, lit with a hard, angular brightness against a bare backdrop with minimal evocative sets of pillars, rocks and flames. Wilson's libretto, and adaptation of Euripides with additional text in Ancient Greek, English, French, German and Italian, issues impassively (to the eye, but not to the ear) from the mouths of those on stage, or from close-miked voices.

It can at any time elide into and out of arioso, arioso even, and Bryars's score - now mantra-like in its ostinati, now ritual in chorus, now rhapsodic and always tonal and euphonious - guides the response and the understanding. His orchestration is done with infinite care. He notes Berlioz's praise of the expressive range of the viola, and exchanges oboes for saxophones with their family of voices. The marriage of drama-turgy and orchestration is perfect.

It is a strange and daring undertaking, and it works, in spite of all its inherent dangers, not least because of the deep commitment of all the performers under the baton of Richard Bernas. Yvonne Ken-

ny's Medea, Marie Marketon's Nurse and Louis Ouey's Jason, as well as the orchestra and choir of the Opéra de Lyon, deserve high praise.

Robert Wilson's absorption with *Medea* has clearly permeated his entire thinking and his responses to his staging of *Medée* for better and for worse. For the audience, it is certainly rewarding to experience the two operas as a diptych, though Charpentier comes off less well in isolation. His 1693 opera is probably the trickiest of all *Medeas* to tackle.

It is enough to make Louis XIV fall off his equestrian statue in Lyon's Place Bellecour - and that is almost exactly what happens on stage. The King is dead; the short invocation to La Gloire and La Victoire is irrelevant, offensive even; Charpentier's music retreats to a hazy background, as a Babel-like confusion of radio-phonics, short quasi-surreal phrases batted from one speaker to another, and the sound of machine-gun fire take their place in a melange of sight and sound culled from history's "collective allegorical memory".

Against a variety of loosely sketched, charcoal, backdrop designs, the tragedy is played out in the same slow, exquisitely-judged formal gestures as Wilson's *Medea*. The effect is that of monochrome stasis slowly animated and tinted with blue or red light. With *Medée* as prime mover, her victims here passively shift through their layers of deceit towards a pre-ordained end.

Every shift of pace, mood and character provided by Charpentier's score is concentrated solely in the voices. And the concentration is entire. The work requires and receives singers whose declamation of every syllable is still, more elegant and forceful than their lyrical skills. Henri Ledoit's *haut-contre* Jason, René Schirrer's might, hawk-like Créon, Gilles Cachemaille's Oronte and Danièle Borsi's radiant Créuse have the power to move by vocal means alone, and they do so magnificently.

Hilary Finch

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Stock relief for cars on consignment

Fraser (Inspector of Taxes) v London Sports Car Centre Ltd
Before Mr Justice Nicholls
[Judgment delivered October 26]

Alfa Romeo cars that were obtained by a dealer from the distributor under an agreement for sale on consignment terms did not form part of the dealer's trading stock for the purposes of obtaining relief under paragraph 9 of Schedule 5 to the 1976 Act, trading stock as defined in paragraph 29(1) of that schedule.

Paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1976 provides: "Where a company carries on a trade in respect of which it is within the charge to corporation tax under Case 1 of Schedule D and (a) the value of its trading stock at the end of a period of account (the 'closing stock value') exceeds (b) the value of its trading stock at the beginning of that period (the 'opening stock value'), the company shall... be entitled to relief under this paragraph by reference to the amount of that excess (the 'increase in stock value')."

Paragraph 29(1) of the schedule defines trading stock as "property of any description, whether real or personal, being either (a) property such as is sold in the ordinary course of the trade... or (b) materials such as are used in the manufacture, preparation or construction of any such property..."

Under an agreement entered into in 1974, the dealer obtained cars for sale from the distributor, Alfa Romeo (Great Britain) Ltd. By the terms of that agreement the dealer accepted cars from the distributor on consignment, immediately before delivery of a car to the dealer a sum equal to the basic retail price less the dealer's discount was to be paid by the dealer to the distributor.

Such a car was to remain the property of the distributor until, *inter alia*, purchased or sold by the dealer. The dealer was then liable to pay to the distributor a sum equal to the value-added tax and car tax attributable to the car. The car could be returned to the dealer during the term of the agreement and the distributor could demand its return in the company was in default of the terms of the agreement.

The dealer appealed against an estimated assessment to corporation tax made on it for its accounting period to December 31, 1976. It sought to include the cars that it held under the consignment agreement in its stock for purposes of a stock relief claim. The special

commissioners held that the cars were for the purposes of obtaining relief under paragraph 9 of Schedule 5 to the 1976 Act, trading stock as defined in paragraph 29(1) of that schedule.

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The dealer appealed against an estimated assessment to corporation tax made on it for its accounting period to December 31, 1976. It sought to include the cars that it held under the consignment agreement in its stock for purposes of a stock relief claim. The special

commercial purpose was not to enable a dealer to return cars to a manufacturer nor to enable a manufacturer to recover cars from a dealer.

In the dealer's balance sheets the value of the consigned cars was shown as "stock". Before the commissioners the correct accounting treatment of vehicles held by the dealer under the consignment agreement had been disputed.

In July 1976 the Institute of Chartered Accountants (with other accountancy bodies) issued a recommendation on accounting for goods sold subject to reservation. That was prompted by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Aluminium Industrie Vaassen BV v Romalpa Aluminium Ltd* ([1976] 1 WLR 676).

The commissioners decided that the cars delivered to the dealer under the agreement were properly brought into its trading accounts and, taking a common sense view, the cars were no less trading stock than, for example, a second-hand car purchased for resale by the dealer would have been: they were the stock with which the dealer traded.

The correct accounting treatment was now not challenged by the Crown.

The Crown's case was that for property to be trading stock in respect of which a company was entitled to stock relief three requirements had to be satisfied: the property had to be "its trading stock" (paragraph 9(1)); it had to fall within the definition in paragraph 29(1); and it had to be trading stock brought into account in computing the profits or gains of a trade in accordance with Cases 1 or 2 of Schedule D (paragraph 29(5)).

The cars consigned to the dealer satisfied the second and third requirements. Thus the sole issue was whether the first was satisfied. The Crown said that the phrase "its trading stock" meant "trading stock belonging to it". "Its" meant that the property had to be owned by the company.

Mr Milne adopted the commissioners' conclusion regarding the use of "its" in paragraph 9(1). They said "That use of the possessive pronoun does not of itself justify the inference that the trading stock referred to must belong to or be owned by the trading company; were that intended, we would expect the draftsman to use words which unequivocally pointed to that requirement. In our view the word 'its' is used simply to make it clear beyond doubt that the trading stock that falls to be valued is the stock with which the company claiming the relief is trading."

Alternatively Mr Milne submitted that "its trading stock" meant "the stock which the trader holds for the purposes of his trade". The construction of the phrase which commended itself to the commissioners was correct. In ordinary usage the meaning that the pronoun bore depended on the context. The possessive pronoun did not necessarily connote title or ownership. The trading stock referred to in paragraph 9(1) was that stock which the person or company claiming the relief was carrying on his or its trade.

One would expect that normally such stock would belong to the owner. But there was nothing in the phrase "its trading stock" to suggest that, if unusually, a trader did not own the stock with which it traded that stock could not be as much part of "its trading stock" as the stock of which it was the absolute owner.

It followed that the appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Timmuss Sainer & Webb.

P & R Potter v Commissioners of Customs and Excise
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Robert Goff
[Judgment delivered October 26]

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by Patricia Ann Potter and Richard Potter trading as P & R Potter Wholesale, from Mr Justice Woolf's decision on January 13 (The Times, January 17) of their appeal against a decision of a value-added tax tribunal holding that distributors of Tupperware were liable to account for value-added tax on the basis that they sold it to members of the public to sending parties organized for selling Tupperware at the full recommended retail price through the medium and agency of their dealers.

Mr David Braham, QC and Mr Ian McCulloch for the appellants; Mr John Laws for Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Tupperware was the brand name of a range of plastic domestic utensils. It gained fame in part because of its system of marketing which created the problem to be resolved on the appeal.

Five parties were involved in the Tupperware distribution system: the manufacturer, Dart Industries Ltd, who sold to an associated company, The Tupperware Company which in turn sold to distributors or authorized wholesalers. The appellants, P & R Potter Wholesale, were such Tupperware distributors. It was the next two links in the chain which created the problem.

Tupperware distributors appointed "dealers" who arranged for friends and acquaintances to act as "hostesses" and to organize parties, like coffee mornings, at which Tupperware was displayed and the guests were encouraged to buy.

The dealer paid the distributor 70 per cent of the recommended price usually the full recommended selling price, from the individual purchasers.

The issue was whether VAT was payable by the distributors on the sums received by them or on the higher price paid by the retail customers.

That depended upon whether the dealers purchased from the wholesaler and then resold to the retail customers or were agents of the distributors in the sense that they created contractual relations between the distributors and retail customers.

If the purchaser from the distributors was the dealer, VAT was payable only on the 70 per cent of the recommended selling price received by the distributors. If the dealer was not a purchaser from the distributor, but was the distributor's agent to effect a sale by the distributor to the retail customer, the distributor was undoubtedly liable to pay VAT on the price paid by that customer.

The appellants contended that the dealers were principals buying Tupperware from them and re-selling to the retail customers.

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise contended that the dealers were agents for the distributors who, through that agency, sold to the retail customers.

The Manchester VAT Tribunal (Lord Grantchester, QC) held that the distributors sold to the retail customers, thereby affirming the commissioners' contention that VAT was payable by the distributors on the price paid by the retail customers.

The appellants exercised their right to appeal under section 13 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 as being dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision "in point of law".

The point of law was the decision that the appellants' legal relationship with their dealers was one of principal and agent rather than that of seller and buyer.

It was argued for the commissioners that the court should approach the appeal as did Mr Justice Woolf on the basis that while the final answer was indeed a question of law it depended upon an appreciation of matters of fact and degree which were solely for the tribunal. Similar problems arose in cases such as *Edwards v Bairstow* ([1956] AC 14) and *O'Kelly v Trusthouse Forte plc* ([1984] 1 QB 90).

His Lordship proposed to consider the appeal on the basis of *Edwards v Bairstow*, per Lord Radcliffe at pp 36, 39.

Lord Grantchester had found in favour of the commissioners saying, *inter alia*, that he had come to the conclusion, after some hesitation, that the dealers "associated with" the appellants were the agents of the appellants in the legal sense for the purpose of supplying Tupperware to guests at parties.

His Lordship accepted that the tribunal had asked itself the right question and that the judge had correctly defined the scope of the court's right to intervene, but was quite satisfied that, to adopt Lord Radcliffe's test in *Edwards v Bairstow*, the tribunal's decision was inconsistent with the only reasonable decision on the facts.

The use of the word "agent" in any mercantile transaction was, of itself, wholly uninformative of the legal relationship between the parties and the use of the words "independent agent" took the matter no further. Either was consistent with a self-employed person acting either as a true agent who put his principal into a contractual relationship with a third party or with such a person acting as a principal to whom exclusive rights had been granted.

His Lordship considered the facts: those which were neutral, those which pointed towards agency and the much more numerous pointers towards a relationship of principals.

Allowing the tribunal the fullest latitude to attach what weight it

thought right to the various factors he was driven to the conclusion that a decision in favour of the principal to principal relationship was quite inevitable. The reference to "dealer price" in the "summary" at the bottom of the dealers' weekly order form was wholly inconsistent with a relationship of agency.

The appeal should be allowed, the decision of the tribunal set aside and a decision substituted that the distributors sold the goods to the dealer and that VAT was payable on the price payable by the dealer to the distributors.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER, agreeing, said that it was not a transaction which could be equated with the type of case envisaged by Lord Wilberforce in *Brannan v Worcester Works Finance Ltd* ([1969] 1 AC 552) where it could be said that there was recognized custom or public expectation such that the mere entry into the transaction imported the creation of the relationship of principal and agent.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, also agreeing, said that the concept of a *del credere* agent (a surety to his principal) was well known to the law, but there was no express provision in any document that a *del credere* agency was intended and his Lordship would find it very difficult to hold that any such obligation could be implied.

Solicitors: David Rimmer & Co for Sheltens, Wolverhampton; Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

Factual defence to election petition

Barrett v Tuckman
Before Mr Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment delivered October 31]

Where a petition was presented under section 120 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 alleging that false statements of fact were made and published in relation to the personal character or conduct of the petitioner before and during the election contrary to section 106(1) of the 1983 Act, and it could not be proved that those statements contained anything untrue, the petition had to be dismissed since no cause of action was disclosed, or alternatively it was an abuse of the process of the court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing the election petitions of Alan Gordon Barrett of July 26 and August 22, 1984, and allowing the motions of the respondent, Frederick Augustus Tuckman.

The petitioner in person: Mr Michael Tugendhat for the respondent, Mr David Paget, pursuant to section 181 of the 1983 Act, for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD said that on June 17, 1984, the respondent was the successful candidate for the Leicester constituency in the elections for the European Assembly. The petitioner came last in the number of votes polled.

The petitioner's complaints related to statements in five local newspapers published during the

election concerning two sentences of imprisonment served by him.

Moreover, further statements in various local and national newspapers made between September 1978 and October 1980 relating to the events leading up to the sentences of imprisonment were also alleged to be false.

Since in effect the petitioner's real complaint was, and always had been, that he had been wrongly sentenced, the petitions contained no allegation of any statement that was false within the provisions of section 106 and had to be dismissed.

His Lordship said further that the respondent had raised an alternative objection namely that the petitioner had failed to give security for costs on presentation of the election petition, as required by section 136(1) having provided security in the form of his own recognizance.

The petitioner submitted that that objection should have been made within five days of the petition as required by section 136(4); Mr Tugendhat submitted that that subsection (4) only applied where there was an objection to the recognizance on the ground of insufficiency of any surety.

Since no surety had been given at all, a surety necessarily being a third party, no security had been given as required. Accordingly, all further proceedings on the petitions were stayed by virtue of subsection (8).

His Lordship said that *Pease v Norwood* ([1869] 4 LR CP 235) was clear authority that an objection to a

recognizance on the ground that it had been entered into by the petitioner himself was an objection to the sufficiency of the surety.

The thrust of two of the judgments (in a four-judge Divisional Court) was that "insufficiency" had to be given a wide and liberal construction to bring within "the healing efficacy" of the Act those who being principals were not sureties as such but had nonetheless "honestly undertaken the full liability of sureties, and (were) able to fulfil their engagement".

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, although agreeing that the petitions should be dismissed, said that *Pease v Norwood* was authority for the proposition that none of the securities provided pursuant to section 136(2) could be the petitioner.

As counsel submitted, the natural and ordinary meaning of the term "surety" was a third party who undertook a responsibility for another so that the petitioner could not be a surety.

Therefore, it would be inappropriate to object on the statutory basis that the surety was insufficient, and no security as required by the section had been given. Once it was clearly stated that a petitioner could not himself act as a surety, no petitioner should henceforth seek to satisfy the stringent security requirements of the 1983 Act by entering into his own recognizance.

Solicitors: Penningtons, Director of Public Prosecutions.

No double jeopardy on defective information

Broadbent v High
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Lloyd
[Judgment delivered October 25]

Where two informations had been laid in respect of the same offence, the first, although it disclosed an offence, being defective in form, and where the justices, upon the prosecutor electing to proceed on the second, had dismissed the first information and proceeded to hear the second, a plea of *autrefois acquit* or *res judicata* was not available to the defendant in respect of the second information.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mr Christopher Broadbent against his conviction by the Tower Bridge Justices on November 25, 1983 of driving a motor vehicle with excess blood alcohol, contrary to section 4(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

Mr Jonathan Goldberg for the defendant; Mr John Covey for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the first information preferred against the defendant had alleged that the proportion of alcohol in his blood had been ascertained by a specimen of breath. He had pleaded

not guilty, and the second information had subsequently been laid alleging, as was the case, that the blood alcohol level had been ascertained by a specimen of blood.

At the hearing counsel for the defendant had objected to the admissibility of the analyst's report, in view of its late service, and had submitted that the case should proceed on the first information. On being offered an adjournment he had changed his mind, contending that the prosecutor was obliged to elect which information to pursue.

Counsel for the prosecution had thereupon offered no evidence on the first information and the justices had dismissed it. The defendant had then submitted that as the first information had been dismissed, he was entitled to plead *autrefois acquit* to the second.

The justices had rejected that submission and the defendant had changed his plea to guilty.

In support of his appeal, the defendant had referred the court to *Prosecution v Director of Public Prosecutions* ([1964] AC 1254), where the House of Lords held that *autrefois acquit* was available only where the defendant had previously been imperilled for the same offence in fact and in law, and to *R v Swansea Justices, ex parte Purvis*

([1981] 145 JP 252).

In the latter case an information had been dismissed following a refusal of an adjournment where the prosecutor had not been ready to proceed, but a second information had been laid in respect of the same offence and the defendant had been convicted. The Divisional Court had quashed the conviction, holding that a "trial on the merits" did not require the weighing of evidence, but had occurred if the defendant had been in jeopardy of conviction and had been acquitted.

However, in his Lordship's judgment, those authorities were not of assistance in this case.

Where there had been the kind of error in the laying of an information, as had occurred here in the first information, and a second information had been laid to remedy that error, if the justices had properly, and at the invitation of the defendant, put the prosecutor to his election, the doctrine of *autrefois acquit* had place.

It would have been preferable for the justices to have stayed their hand with regard to the first information until they had heard evidence on the second, if that had been done no question of *autrefois acquit* could possibly have arisen. The justices had taken the wrong

procedural step in dismissing the first information at that stage, but it had been more or less contemporaneous with the other step of beginning to hear the second information.

The doctrine of *res judicata* was not applicable as there had been no hearing on the merits at any time. The very fact that the appeal had been launched indicated that justices should beware of dismissing an information on which a prosecutor had decided not to proceed until the other information had been heard and disposed of.

MR JUSTICE LLOYD, concurring, said that this was not a case where it had been sought to resurrect a charge dismissed on a previous occasion, unlike *Purvis* and the other authorities cited.

Here it had all been part and parcel of the process which resulted from the prosecutor being put to his election as to which information to pursue.

Once he had chosen the second information, the first had fallen by the wayside automatically and the fact that the justices had purported to dismiss it did not entitle the defendant to rely on the doctrine of *autrefois acquit* or *res judicata*.

Solicitors: Wallace Downing; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

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SPECTRUM

A year after the brutal killing of his brother Franco, investigating judge Ferdinando Imposimato believes the battle against Italy's Mafia is being won. Peter Nichols reports

Scourge of the Mafia

The judge is a factual man. At the ceremony last Monday marking the first anniversary of his brother's death, he opened his speech with typical precision: "It is a year and 18 days since Franco was murdered...."

Ferdinando Imposimato is the best known of Italy's investigating judges who are the heroes of the day. They are recognized as having had the decisive part in defeating the terrorists. Imposimato himself believes that the Mafia is at long last destined to go the same way as the terrorists now that the investigators have confessions by important Mafia figures in custody. The example of Tommaso Buscetta, the first of the "godfathers" to offer testimony, is regarded by Imposimato as a watershed in the struggle against organized crime, just as the arrest in January 1982 of the kidnappers of the American general, James Dozier, was the beginning of the end of the Red Brigades.

In 1978 this left-wing terrorist movement had been able to kidnap, interrogate and finally murder with impunity Aldo Moro, the most eminent figure in the governing Christian Democrat Party. In September 1983 the Mafia reached its own highpoint in its challenge to the state by shooting General Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the anti-terrorist expert sent to Palermo as prefect to combat the Mafia.

The Mafia ordered the killing of Ferdinando Imposimato's brother. He is sure of that; he knows that the order came from the same people who made the fateful decision to murder the general. Buscetta confirmed this to Imposimato personally.

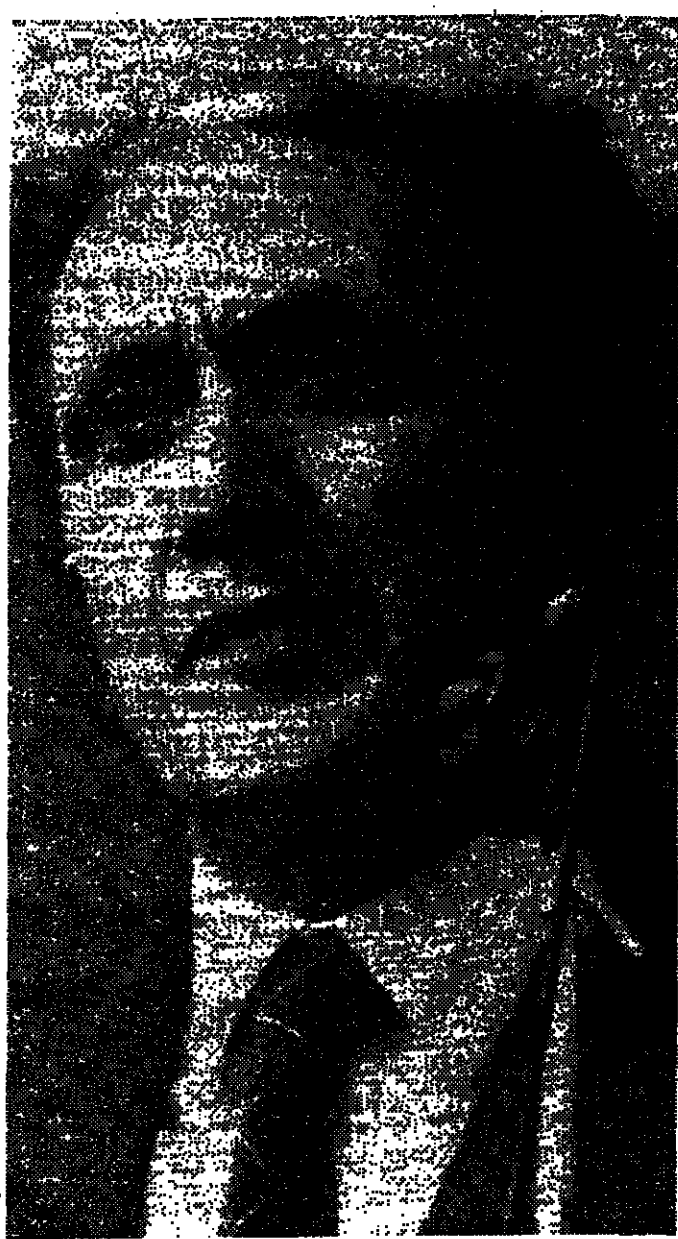
Franco Imposimato was killed in the town of Maddaloni

near Caserta where he and Ferdinando, another brother and two sisters were born. The killers, Imposimato says, were gunmen belonging to the Camorra, the Neapolitan junior partner of the Sicilian Mafia. Imposimato knows who the killers were. A prominent member of the Camorra in prison, disgusted with the crime, told him that one of them had since been killed in Camorra gang warfare. The others, Imposimato says, will meet the same fate or fall into the hands of the police, because they are also being hunted for a number of other crimes.

Ferdinando Imposimato was born in April 1936. His father was a non-commissioned officer in the army and a chess-player of national class.

Maddaloni is an odd place in which to be born and brought up. It is chaotic with only isolated survivals of a former elegance. Many years ago it was the scene of Camorra murders but for a long time it has been remarkably peaceful, especially since the province around it, Imposimato says, has the highest murder rate per head in the whole of Europe. The last of Maddaloni's prominent Camorra figures, an unscrupulous criminal who lived by extortion and was known as Satana, long ago shifted his activities to the Adriatic resort of Rimini. Although an old man he still applies his skills as a professional debt-collector.

Imposimato holds the official title of investigating judge of the Rome tribunal. His task is to conduct inquiries to ascertain whether a person suspected of a serious crime should be sent for trial. It is the investigating judge who decides whether there is a



Ferdinando Imposimato: For safety's sake he sits with his back to the wall in restaurants and he is constantly guarded

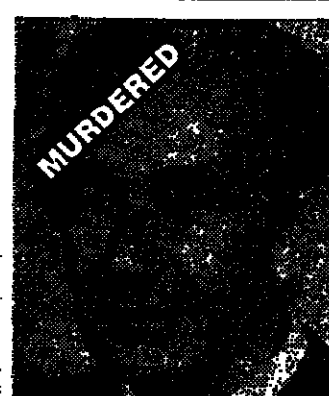
case to answer before a court. Imposimato's work has included many of the most famous crimes of the decade: the Moro murder, the Dozier kidnapping, the Sindona case, right-wing terrorism, a whole series of brutal kidnappings, the traffic in arms and drugs, the Mafia, the Camorra - and Imposimato regards himself as the original discoverer of the Bulgarian connexion, the criminal plots in Italy ascribed to the Bulgarian secret services, which included the 1981 attempt on the Pope's life.

Imposimato travels armed, in a bullet-proof car, with a bodyguard of four carabinieri. He is a remarkable interrogator: he can be hard but he also manages to win the confidence of his prisoners. He says, for example, that Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who severely wounded the Pope in

May 1984, felt betrayed when Imposimato withdrew from the case. He has a striking knack for convincing hardened criminals that the game is up, that they should shake off the habit of centuries and cooperate with justice.

He always said that sooner or later Ali Agca would begin to confess when he realized that he had no future except close confinement in maximum security prisons. Imposimato's interrogation of Dozier's kidnappers resulted in lists of a hundred of, so names and addresses of terrorists and their accomplices which were crucial to the defeat of left-wing terrorism. This mixture of steel determination and human warmth is the essential element in his character.

He is not political. First the Communists and then the Christian Democrats offered



1978: Aldo Moro, kidnapped and killed by Red Brigade



1983: Gen. Dalla Chiesa, killed by the Mafia



1981: Gen. Dozier held for 41 days by Red Brigade



1981: Ali Agca attempted to murder the Pope

influences - other peoples' secret services - were brought to bear on the Red Brigades in order to get rid of Moro on the grounds that he was the architect of an alliance between Christian Democrats and Communists.

But the Dozier kidnapping in Verona was totally different. It was ordered, he says, from a centre of international terrorism in Paris. General Dozier knew many Nato secrets. The Americans had been warned, he says, of a plot to kidnap an American general in Italy but had not taken the warning seriously enough. "America is a great country but sometimes they are ingenious." (But they do not bear a grudge: Imposimato has testified to American congressional committees as an

expert on terrorism and does the same on a regular basis at the European Parliament).

Dozier was freed, the first such success ever against the terrorists. He was a brave man but had not been rescued, he might have been forced to talk under torture. And, waiting for a report on what he said were Imposimato says, the Bulgarians. His interrogation of the captured terrorists revealed the famous "connexion" eight months before Ali Agca began his confessions which implicated the Bulgarians in an alleged conspiracy to kill the Pope. Imposimato believes



1984: Tommaso Buscetta first Godfather to confess



1981: Gen. Dozier held for 41 days by Red Brigade

100 per cent in the Bulgarian implication in the attack on the Pope, though he adds that the Turkish right-wing terrorist organisation known as the "Grey Wolves", to which Agca belonged, had an important role.

Imposimato's immediate interest in Ali Agca was his confession, which he later retracted, that the Bulgarians had asked him to murder not only the Pope but Lech Walesa. That investigation, which Imposimato was handling, has for the moment had to be dropped. But he believes that the plan was serious and may well have been more important to the east than the attempted assassination of the Pope. Of the two, Walesa the trade unionist was regarded as more dangerous than a Pope who fundamentally was right-wing.

Walesa could have been killed in Poland but his death there would not have calmed the situation: the very opposite. The effect of Jerzy Popieluszko's murder is now confirming this point. The object was to be rid of Walesa with the least possible reaction. And so, it was decided to kill him when he was visiting Rome in 1981. Imposimato believes that the idea was abandoned because of the practical difficulties: Walesa was constantly surrounded by trade union escorts and journalists. Their presence brought the risk of a slaughter which would have ruined the plan of a quiet assassination.

It is an intriguing theory because it would explain why Ali Agca claims that he received instructions to murder the Pope in August 1980 and waited until May 1981 before carrying out his attempt: the Pope had to wait his turn while the would-be killers concentrated on Walesa.

Imposimato takes the obvious precautions for his own safety: he changes plans at the last moment; he likes to sit with his back to a wall in restaurants; and of course he is guarded. Where he was vulnerable was in his deep affection for his family. He loved his brother Franco who was certainly an original personality highly esteemed in Maddaloni. A practising Catholic and a Communist trade unionist, he was devoted to the history of Maddaloni and has left a large collection of drawings of its main historical

There is no point in threatening or shooting judges, whatever happens others will continue the work

landmarks as well as reconstructions of the city's life in the past. Franco received threatening telephone calls. He had a bodyguard for a time but apparently he did not think that anyone would kill him as a means of stopping his brother: he did not like to think the worst of people. But the worst happened, and he was murdered. The shock to Imposimato was deep but friends convinced him that he should not feel guilt even if his activities were the motive for his brother's murder. Fellow judges rallied round; at a meeting in Rome a group of them dealing with the Mafia and the Camorra vowed to more than redouble their efforts: "Whatever we did in the past," they told Imposimato, "will be triplicated after what has happened to your brother."

This human solidarity helped carry forward a process which Imposimato sees as promising for the future of the struggle against organized crime. There is now much more teamwork on the part of judges dealing with cases of violence. And so, from the criminal's point of view, there will be no point in shooting them or threatening them individually because whatever happens the others will continue the work.

The commemoration last Monday of Franco's murder was a moral triumph for the brothers. If people are known for their friends, Imposimato was in excellent company. Many of his colleagues were there: Beside him on the platform, apart from the mayor of Maddaloni, was Senator Francesco Cossiga, presiding officer of the Senate and friend of Aldo Moro (Cossiga honourably resigned the Ministry of the Interior when he failed to rescue him); Signor Virginio Rognoni who followed Cossiga as Minister of the Interior; Senator Ugo Pecchioli, the Communist Party's expert on law and order; Monsignor Antonio Riboldi, Bishop of Acerra and fearless opponent of the Camorra who described Franco's murderers not as the evil side of life in the area but as "men from another planet"; Moro's daughter; workers from all the neighbouring factories.

It is easy for people to feel disgust at the murder. What is encouraging is that Imposimato knows now that even a man such as Buscetta who seems a totally hardened criminal is nevertheless telling him that one of the reasons why he confessed was his disgust at the transformation of the Mafia since he joined it as a boy some 40 years ago. Organised crime seems to be losing its attractiveness and Franco Imposimato's murder has contributed to that disgust.

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If you want a cracking time tonight...

A Department of Safety and Fair Play official leaflet.

Hello. Tonight is Guy Fawkes' night, on which we all traditionally let off fireworks and have a good time. Nothing wrong with that. Everyone likes a bit of a bang. And nothing should go wrong as long as you obey one or two basic rules, all right?

For God's sake don't let off any fireworks yourself.

They are nasty, dangerous horrible little things. Get someone else to do it, a relation you don't like or an unpopular neighbour, perhaps. Half the fireworks you get these days don't seem to light properly and just as you bend over them with a torch and a lighted taper the blasted thing goes off in your face. That's why it makes sense to get someone else to do it. And remember, the person who lets them off never gets to see them - he's too busy trying to read the instructions on the next one.

Build a proper rocket launcher.

Most people, especially unpopular relations, have no idea how to launch a rocket properly. They put them in large bottles which tip over just after they have lit the rockets, and of course the rockets shoot along the ground into your family, leaving a trail of fear and destruction. So make sure you build a proper launching pad out of reinforced concrete, steel and barbed wire. We have copies of an instruction manual, originally written by the CIA for use in Nicaragua, which tells you how to launch rockets, and indeed how to mortar a

Presidential Palace, though you probably won't need that chapter. Just send an SAE.

Keep your wardrobe locked.

Children like to put a guy on their bonfire, and they like to dress the guy up properly. So where do they get the clothes from? From your wardrobe, of course. Why else did you think your favourite gardening trousers and thickest jersey tended to disappear this time of year? Put all your clothes in your wardrobe and lock it.

Don't harm wild life.

Nature is not used to having loud, sudden noises go off in its ear, so don't have your fireworks display anywhere near any dogs, cats, hamsters, goldfish, bees, wasps, squirrels, birds, hedgehogs, insects, snakes, foxes, grouse, Hatter's Wildbeeste, spotted gazelles, small children, su pair girls, Japanese visitors, Jehovah's Witnesses or people who have been out of work for more than a year. Australians are all right, as they are not easily scared.

Don't, for heaven's sake, whatever else you do, unpack a firework to see what's inside and set fire to it.

This is sheer lunacy. It's very tempting, I know, but it's simply not worth it. Well, perhaps just one, then. A small one. Not too small. Unwrap it and get all the powder out, then put it in a saucer. Put a fuse in it and light it, retire to a safe distance and watch the explosion shatter the saucer. Fun wasn't it? Let's try a bigger one.

moreover... Miles Kingston

A note about Australians

It has been drawn to our attention that some Australians are, in fact, easily scared. This is apparently because although Australian men are in the main tough and butch, some are very sensitive and become ballet dancers or similar, and these are the kind most likely to travel abroad and be in this country for Bonfire night. So please delete Australians from the last paragraph but one.

A footnote to the last note.

It has been drawn very forcibly to our attention that ballet dancers are not the willing flowers that we contrived to suggest. On the contrary, anyone who spends his life surrounded by crashing

and falling female dancers, collapsing scenery and very strange music indeed, is not likely to be scared by a few fireworks. "If you look up and see eight stone of female flying through the air towards you, and you know you've got to catch her," writes A.E. of Ealing, "do you think a little jumping cracker is going to worry you? Think again, clever clogs."

The CIA: an apology.

It has been drawn incredibly to our attention, by three large men from the American Embassy, that no such manual has been prepared by them for Nicaragua. We would like to apologize to them and to anyone else offended by anything in this leaflet. We now intend to get inside our wardrobe, lock it and stay there till Bonfire night is over.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 487)

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Vice (5)	1 Visitor (6)
4 Mockery (7)	2 Roof space (5)
8 Bingo (5)	3 Encourager (8)
9 Gospel (7)	4 Buying bout (8.5)
10 Adventure (8)	5 Back (4)
11 Positive (4)	6 Scaphic (7)
13 Newish office building (6.5)	7 Account (6)
17 Hop kiln (4)	12 Blurred (8)
18 Murderer (8)	14 Heat (7)
21 Shaver (7)	15 Piffle (6)
22 Supply (5)	16 Except (6)
23 Little (7)	19 Rope fibre (3)
24 Screams (5)	20 Inflatable bed (4)

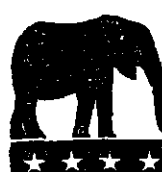
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

من الامم

MONDAY PAGE

The women no politician dares ignore

On the eve of the American presidential election
Bailey Morris reports from Washington on two remarkable women, one on either side of the political fence, who will win whatever happens



They met for the first time formally in the White House during the changing of the guard of the Carter Administration. On one side of the Oval Office was Nancy Clark Reynolds, a Republican close to President and Mrs Reagan she is known as the "first friend". On the other side, among the despondent advisers to President Jimmy Carter, was Anne Wexler, a lifelong Democrat who once served as assistant publisher of the avant-garde *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Together, almost four years after a highly successful professional partnership, they are two of the most powerful women in Washington. In the turbulent, all-male world of Washington influence-peddling, the Wexler-Reynolds team is considered one of the best, if not the best. They are the new breed of "super lobbyists", power brokers whose fortunes roll with the mood of the Congress and changes at the White House.

This political "odd couple" has it all: the ability to work both sides of the aisle in Congress, instant access to the White House, a high profile in the Democratic election campaign, a powerful network of organizations and important people they can call upon when pressure is needed.

Their list of clients reads like a Who's Who in American business: Aetna Life Insurance Company, Kellogg Inc., Bendix Corp., General Foods, Beneficial Management Corporation, Tosco Petroleum, the National Machine Tool Builders' Association, General Motors Corporation, the Motion Picture Association of America, the National Radio Broadcasters Association and so on.

When the Motion Picture Association recently came up against proposed legislation which would have meant the loss of millions of dollars in annual revenues, the top executives called Mrs Reynolds, she called Mr Michael Deaver at the White House and the upshot was an important victory for Hollywood.

Similarly, when a client came to Mrs Wexler for help in blocking legislation authorizing the building of a massive coal slurry pipeline which appeared almost certain of passage, she went to work, and stopped it. Calling upon her army of contacts, Mrs Wexler mobilized an unbeatable

coalition of disaffected railroads and farmers who opposed the pipeline.

The day before Congress was to vote, newspapers across the country carried page one stories saying "Farmer-Rail Coalition Opposes Controversial Pipeline." The legislation was defeated in a close vote.

"We used the networks, and we did it. I really did not think we would win," said a jubilant Mrs Wexler.

It was another feather in her overdecorated cap. When she is not engineering victories in the Senate, Mrs Wexler, as senior political adviser to Ms Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic Vice Presidential nominee, is attempting to pull off an election coup.

"One of the good things about our firm is that we are Administration-proof," said Mrs Wexler in a recent interview.

All of this from two "women in our 50s" who began traditionally as wives and mothers. There was no grandiose career "gameplan", no Harvard Business School, no early political exposure which placed them on the track to success. Mrs Wexler was a suburban housewife in Connecticut until she was almost 38. Mrs Reynolds was at home rearing three sons and doing a little part-time work until her first marriage became shaky, causing a move, and finally ended in divorce in 1962.

The women went from their homes to a series of jobs which led them both to Washington. Now, their world is one of thickly carpeted offices and Senate hearing rooms, of chauffeur-driven cars and endless parties, of 14-hour working days and \$250,000 fees.

But it all began on that poignant day in January, 1981, when the defeated President Carter handed over the reins of power to the victorious President Reagan.

"I remember so well the day President Reagan met Jimmy Carter. It was one of those awkward moments. Quick talk then long silences. People staring at their shoes. She (Anne Wexler) came clear across the Oval Office and said to me 'Congratulations, it must have been a great day for you.' I thought to myself what a thoroughbred thing to do. She had no idea what she would be doing. It was a generous gesture. What she was saying was, it hurts for us but welcome and good luck to you".

It would be two and a half years before the women finally got together



The 'odd couple': Reynolds and Wexler - two of the most powerful women in Washington

in the firm of Wexler, Reynolds, Harrison and Schule. But the seeds had been planted.

From there, they went their separate ways: Mrs Reynolds to stardom in Washington as the power behind the scenes at the Reagan White House, Mrs Wexler to her own newly-launched lobbying firm which she opened on the day of President Reagan's inauguration.



These were years well spent. Mrs Reynolds, a western woman from Idaho with a direct manner and a dazzling smile, was already known in Washington as Vice-President in charge of the National Affairs Office of the Bendix Corp. But it was not until the arrival of the Reagans, her close friends and former employers, that she rose to national prominence.

Mrs Reynolds introduced the Reagans to official and unofficial Washington in a series of pre-inauguration dinners which brought together businessmen, hostesses, politicians, diplomats, and pin-striped bureaucrats. The dinners were racially mixed, and politically bipartisan. They set the right tone in sharp contrast to the wrong tone set by the Carters when they initially snubbed the Establishment as too inbred and too Washington. The responses to the dinners and Mrs Reynolds' handling of the first real crisis at the White House, the staffing of the First Lady's wing following some bad gaffes, were overwhelmingly favourable.

Her success was not surprising to her friends. "After all, this is no ordinary woman," said a former Bendix colleague.

She is a Clark of Idaho, a deeply rooted family which produced State assemblymen, governors, congress-

men and senators, including her own father. She cut her teeth on politics and a frontier philosophy which glorified those who "stood tall" in adversity and mocked the hard times with a direct brand of humour.

After her first divorce in 1962, with three sons to support, she became one of the first women to break into television, becoming a reporter and anchorwoman for KPIX-TV in San Francisco.

Typically, she first met Ronald Reagan on horseback in 1966 when she interviewed him for a televised feature on his race for governor against the Democratic incumbent, Mr Pat Brown. It was "admiration at first sight", said a veteran aide to Mr Reagan. "He figured anyone who could handle a horse that well had something to offer."

A short time later, Mr Reagan offered her a job as his assistant Press Secretary for radio and television. She stayed with him from 1966 to 1976, through his two terms as governor and later, she went to work for the public relations firm headed by Mr Deaver and Mr Peter Hannaford, both Reagan loyalists.

Mrs Wexler, almost a direct opposite in both appearance and politics, is the field marshal and strategist of the firm. While Mrs Reynolds was basking in the reflected glow of the White House, she was becoming one of the few aides to former President Carter to prosper in a city which does not reward those out of power.

The reputation she earned as assistant to the President for Public Liaison, charged with the task of building public support for presidential priorities, allowed her to stand out in a crowded field.

Mr Robert Strauss, one of the best known power brokers in the Democratic Party, had this to say: "When

PENNY PERRICK

Secretly, I do envy one kept woman

"I am a young woman of twenty-two who does not want to work. Ergo: I am looking to form an attachment with a wealthy middle-aged businessman." (Advertisement in the *Lonely Hearts* column of *Private Eye*)

Now here's a bit of backsliding, if you please. Just when women are yammering to be the hand that holds the briefcase and rules the world; when they are shoulder to shoulder against the cuts in nursery school provision and united against Berni Inns' anti big bust policy, here's this little upstart letting the side down.

Has the silly child never heard of fulfillment, has she no inkling of the joys of work - a job well done, the easy camaraderie of office life, the thrill of promotion? Conversely, has she seriously considered the long-term prospects in her hoped-for career as a latter day Lorelei Lee? For having observed several wealthy middle-aged businessmen over the years, the thought of being in their employ 24 hours a day makes my stomach curdle.

Oh yes, these gentlemen may know a thing or two about recruitment techniques: how to take a suitable applicant out to lunch, how to pour champagne, how to clinch the deal by proffering, at the opportune moment, the small velvet-lined box with the twinkling contents. But does our 22-year-old Miss *Lonely Hearts* know what happens next?

What happens next are golfing stories, too many whiskies before lunch and the tetchiness that comes with the Sunday afternoon hangover. At this stage, Lorelei Lonely Hearts may discover that she does not feel as user friendly as she once did and wished she had applied for a job that didn't require her services at weekends or during Bank Holidays.

I wish I had the strength of character to seek out this misguided young woman and frogmarch her to the nearest Job Centre, but unfortunately I too have my moments of weakness and am not in a position to provide a virtuous example of working woman at her best. For were I to make a list of the women friends I most admire: Billie Whitelaw (actress), Deborah Moggach (novelist), Anne Lapping (television producer), Angela Lambert (biographer), I know quite well that I wouldn't trade places with any of them. It would be too much like hard work, you see.

But what about the woman I envy, the one who causes me to

grind my teeth in jealous rage? Why she is married to a wealthy middle-aged businessman and spends her life flitting about the world's holiday spots, leaving her two English homes (one in London, one in the Home Counties) to be looked after by the cook and butler.

I think of her a lot, especially when I have come home late from work and have to move straight on to peeling the brussels sprouts before I've even taken my shoes off. At such times, it requires several letters from publishers offering interesting contracts before job satisfaction starts flowing once more through my veins.

Such role confusion is not uncommon. Witness all those women who showed up in the National Marriage Guidance Council's annual report as having given up their jobs when their husbands joined the unemployed. The wives hesitated to become the main breadwinners even though refusal to do so would mean financial hardship.

Then there is the case of Marie Patterson, until recently the lively national women's officer for the TGWU. It has been reported that Mrs Patterson vacated her job because she got married again. Mrs Patterson is 30; she is unlikely to have children. So why on earth does she feel she can't combine marriage with trade unionism?

The thought that someone as strong-minded as Marie Patterson may feel that acquiring a new husband means you have to get off the platform and take up flower-arranging fills me with confusion. So does the news that the American Secretary for Health and Human Services, Mrs Margaret Heckler, is being sued for divorce by her husband on the grounds that she abandoned him for her career.

With such goings-on, maybe Miss Lonely Hearts is right in thinking that a wealthy protector will provide less heartache than a good job. But I doubt it.

It is a bit alarming that *Envision Video* is still advertising in its "The best in video self-improvement" series, one called "Jim Fixx on Running". Much as I regret the death of Mr Fixx in mid-jog, I don't feel ready to accept his advice on how to improve myself. I wonder if *Envision* would be interested in some further additions to its series such as "Shirley Williams' Fashion Secrets" and "Les Dawson's 100 Greatest Beauty Tips".

My grandfather's sex life was beyond reproach says Walter Freud

How TV made Freud slip

Dead men can't talk, nor can they be libelled. So there are few constraints against interpreting their lives in a way that creates the most dramatic impact - whether or not the evidence to support the interpretation is available. Sadly, the latest well-known figure to suffer from the need to titillate an audience is my grandfather, Sigmund Freud.

In the TV series disappointing in its failure either to convey the theory of psychoanalysis adequately, or portray my grandfather's every-day life. In this expression of disapproval I am fully prepared to bow to the judgment of the professional TV critic - or even the audience figures. What I found incredible were the many scenes in the series designed to imply that my grandfather had a sexual relationship with Minna, his wife's sister, who lived as part of the household for a period of 45 years.

On the basis that there must have been some dirty linen behind such propinquity, the theory of a relationship between the two has gained ground as the events have faded into the past, even though no evidence has ever been found. To everyone who knew the personalities involved - as I did - the very idea of such a *menage à trois* is quite ludicrous.

For a start, my grandmother, whose background was strict and whose character in later life still reflected this, would never have tolerated such a situation. Secondly Tante Minna, as we called her, was without wishing to be unkind in my turn to someone unable to answer back, a long way from being the sensual, intelligent creature portrayed in the television series.

My grandfather would have found her infinitely resistible even at the age of 31, when she first joined the household, let alone 10 years later when some of the heavy-weight action between the two is meant to have taken place, according to the series.

I knew my grandparents well. I was respectively 18, 20 and 30 years old when grandfather, Tante Minna and grandmother died. When we lived in Vienna, until 1938, it was the custom, strictly observed, for we grand-children to make a weekly appearance at Sunday lunch. It



Actress and aunt: Suzanne Bertish (left) and 'Tante Minna'

was only a few minutes walk between our homes, and we would listen to the grown-ups talking (I seem to remember a lot of political discussions, not surprising given the European situation) and we would report on the highlights of our little lives. Grandmother also took me on regular shopping expeditions to buy me new leather shoes and other necessities.

Grandmother was not a lady who tolerated bad manners or lax behaviour from anybody and she was quite forthright and outspoken about it. It did not matter whether it was my father (Martin, her eldest boy, then in his 40s) or us, my sister and I, or the man who delivered the meat. If anybody offended against her code, from dirty hands to dirty morals, one got to hear about it very quickly. Neither was there any doubt that she adored grandfather, indeed she divided the world into two: those who knew of grandfather and those who did not. The latter did not play any role in her life.

Naturally, we talked to Tante Minna at Sunday lunchtime; she had her own room in which she kept her collection of cacti, her absorbing hobby. While the actor playing grandfather shows a good likeness to the character, Tante Minna is completely miscast. The actress who plays her, Ms Suzanne Bertish, is a beautiful seductress, brimming



with sex-appeal and resembling Tante Minna as much as Marilyn Monroe resembled Ernest Bevin. When I knew her she was around 70 and I was never struck by any great intellectual activity on her part. As far as I know she never published anything or showed any other creative ability.

The family regarded her with kindly tolerance, but as a passenger. She had been engaged to be married, but her fiancé died of TB. If she had beauty, intellect or enterprise.

The idea that he had an affair with his sister-in-law is quite ludicrous

The idea that he had an affair with his sister-in-law is quite ludicrous

surely she would have found another man with whom to create her own life and family, instead of being a lodger with her sister from the age of 31 to 76. The idea that grandfather and she should have an affair when they were in Rome, aged about 50 and 40 respectively strikes me as ridiculous.

Grandmother would never have permitted anybody to usurp her position as number one in grandfather's life or household. I recall very well that when she came to England,

nearly 80 years old, her oldest daughter Mathilde tried to take over the running of the large house in Maresfield Gardens. Grandmother did not like that idea at all and so nothing came of it.

The truth about the Freud household is, in my opinion, much more prosaic and much less television material. Grandmother had six children within eight years (1887-1895), after which grandfather had, not surprisingly, a vasectomy. There was little help in the Freud home and my father told me that he could not remember any time when not at least one of the family was ill. On top of that, the household had to run like clockwork to cope with grandfather's patients, his writings and meetings. It is therefore not surprising that grandmother did not have time, in addition to being a housewife, to listen to her husband propounding his new ideas.

In contrast Tante Minna had nothing much to do (though I am sure she must have helped with household chores) and she could lend a willing ear and say "yes, Sigi" at the right time. To suggest that she was anything more than a willing ear is not borne out by a shred of evidence.

All the children - that is my father, Anna and Mathilde - adored their parents and so I never heard them utter an ill or critical word against them. If grandfather "carried on" with Tante Minna, they would have noticed it and it would have coloured their outlook. I was in close touch with my father and my aunt Mathilde until they died. There was never any hint of anything untoward.

The author of the play never had the privilege of knowing grandmother, nor first hand experience of her firmness of character, courage or determination.

If he had had that privilege, the author would have realized that it was arrant nonsense to suggest that she would have condoned or tolerated her husband having an affair with her sister without doing anything about it. The Freud television serial might then have become less of a soap opera and more of a real interpretation of grandfather's life.

The author is the son of Martin, Sigmund's older son and second child.



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THE TIMES DIARY

Vague; send for Haig

Following my disclosure that the Foreign Affairs Select Committee investigating the Belgrano sinking exercise its right to call Mrs Thatcher, I now learn that it is to take the remarkable step of inviting Alexander Haig to appear before its deliberations. Such an invitation to an ex-minister of another country is unprecedented but Haig, who led mediation efforts right up to the ship's sinking, could provide evidence crucial to establishing whether Parliament has been misled about the incident. Whereas Francis Pym maintains the Peruvian peace plan was merely "a sketchy outline" at the time of the sinking, for example, Haig has suggested that it had been agreed in principle and "we were down to words, single words". And whereas Mrs T insists that ministers learnt of the plan only after the sinking, Haig has said that one man in Peru, Charles Wallace, "was in on it" at the time of the negotiations. Whether Haig will agree to appear is another matter. As an American citizen he is under no obligation to do so. He has told friends that if he had realized what an issue the Belgrano had become in this country, he would have steered well clear of Britain's "Watergate".

A bit flat

In a beer-soaked attempt to prove that Camra members have a sense of humour, *The Good Beer Guide*, just out, contains a spoof piece about a pub called the Jolly Thatcher in Westminster. Tam Dalyell is outraged by the claim that it sells Dalyell Belgrano Bitter "goes down a treat". About as offensive as the stumpy sold in Chagford, Devon: Thatcher's Ruin.

Uplifting

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the man who lost his trousers in a train, never loses his head in such crises. During his trip to Israel last week I hear that he got stuck in a lift in the Knesset. "Don't worry," he reassured a fellow sufferer, ex-foreign minister Abba Eban. "It takes a long time to suffocate."

There was good reason for keeping Cardinal Hume's mercy mission to Ethiopia under wraps until the day before his departure yesterday. "He didn't want to seem like Robert Maxwell," an aide said.

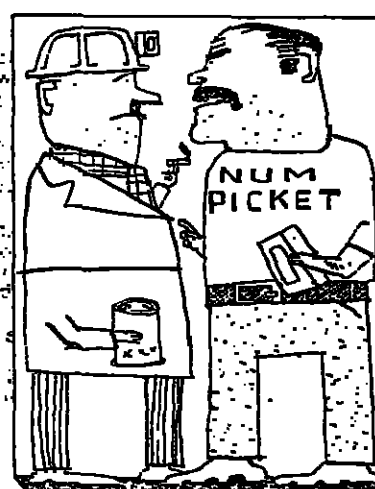
Trapped

Photographer David Bailey gave his services free for the new Greenpeace campaign poster designed "to shame the wearers of fur coats off the streets". It shows a woman holding a bloody fur coat above the words: "It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat, but only one to wear it." I presume, however, that Bailey received a handsome fee for the eight full-page colour photographs that appear in this month's *Tatler*. These show models luxuriating in the furs of fox, mole, mink, squirrel, raccoon and Tasmanian devil. A contradiction? Not at all, says Bailey, who tells me he checked before taking the shots that the furs all came from farm-reared animals that had been humanely killed. All animals are dumb, but it seems that some are more dumb than others.

Before the fall

Father John Thwaites, who 15 years ago set up an orphan's camp in West Bengal called Boys' Town, inspired by the camp in Spencer Tracy's film, is about to make a free-fall jump with the Red Devils to raise funds. In Britain for the first time in 18 years, 53-year-old Father Thwaites tells me he first started parachuting this summer after spotting an advertisement in a *Cleethorpes* barber shop. Since then he has made eight "terrifying" jumps. He is now advertising for sponsors for his charity jump under the headline "He dives that they may live". He will not be diving in his clerical gowns. "They're not very aerodynamic."

BARRY FANTONI



"I'd like to give the NCB spokesman a piece of my mind - if only I could find out who it is"

W.R.O.N.G.

Following my item about Christie's embarrassing misattribution of a portrait up for sale last Friday, my attention is drawn to a second howler in the same catalogue. The very next lot is attributed to an artist called P.W.P. Martin. "Shouldn't that be David Martin, the Scottish painter?" I asked of the auctioneers. "I'm sure we've got it right. Our catalogues are proof-read," came the haughty reply - followed by an admission of error. P.W.P.? The initials after Martin's signature indicate that he was a court painter to the Prince of Wales.

PHS

Roger Boyes considers the long-term aspects of the Popieluszko murder

After the funeral a kiss of life for Solidarity



Walesa: still advocating moderate policies in the face of rival calls for direct action. Jaruzelski: in no position to crack down on the new 'legal defence' groups

factory still boasts its organizers. But links between intellectuals and workers have deteriorated, as have national links between regional underground structures.

The first move to remedy these flaws has come with the creation of "committees to defend the law" (with the unfortunate acronym of Kopl). These are supposed to meet openly, gathering evidence of police abuse and presenting the evidence to local prosecutors on the assumption that parts of the judiciary are still sufficiently independent to pursue the police. The first has been formed in Wrocław - it is supposed to elect its committee tomorrow - by 21 professors, doctors, lawyers, workers

and a priest. Others, assuming that police action does not nip them all in the bud, will be formed in Warsaw, Cracow, Katowice, and Gdansk.

The government has acknowledged their existence by attacking them for "trying to exploit the mood after the tragic events of the Popieluszko affair". The government is of course correct: but it will be difficult for the authorities to act against these groups while they are protesting the government's failure to purge the secret police. The government admits not only that three secret policemen kidnapped the priest, but also that they were probably protected within the

interior ministry and perhaps even outside, even deeper in the Communist establishment. As long as it is saying this, it will be difficult for the police to crack down on "kops". "Kops" are only a beginning. Solidarity strategists are trying to work out a way in which grassroots groups like Kops and the underground cells in factories can be complemented at a national level by, for example, a voice in parliament. Parliamentary elections are due in a year and under the Jaruzelski reforms it may be possible to squeeze a substantial and, above all, independent Catholic grouping into the national assembly. Those strategists who have studied the recent history of the West German Greens have found some interesting ways in which national and local action can be coordinated. But the union leaders are realists and know that the government will give ground only under pressure.

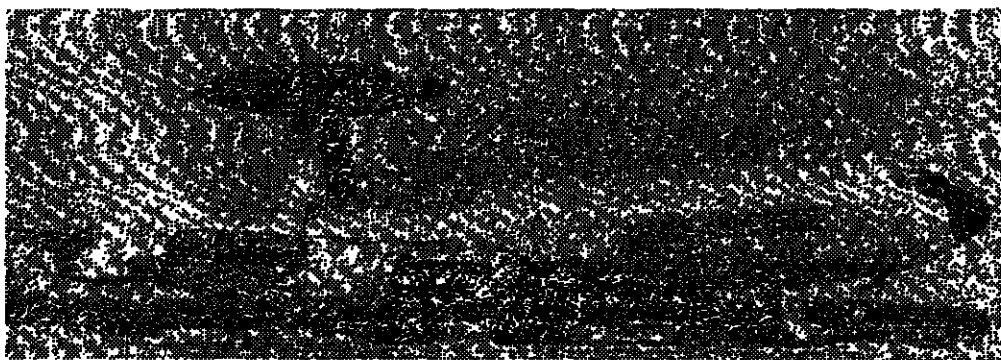
That pressure has been created by the still mysterious murder of Father Popieluszko, the priest who championed Solidarity ideals. There comes, inevitably, with the new feeling of strength, new arguments within the opposition. At the moment, the disagreement is about attitudes. Andrzej Gwiazda, before martial law a challenger to Lech Walesa for the leadership of Solidarity, called unsuccessfully for a one-hour strike in Gdansk to coincide with Father Popieluszko's burial.

More significantly he declared that "passivity is no way of combating the present evil". Mr Walesa, by contrast, used the funeral to call for calm and for the authorities to start a dialogue with the people. His belief in non-violent resistance has been strengthened rather than sapped over the past few months - he claims to see connections between his and Gandhi's philosophy - and the quarter of a million Poles who turned out for the funeral will have convinced him that there is still a mass movement waiting to be led.

Gwiazda, by contrast, is dismissive about the "Walesa clique", about the ideas to create a "shadow cabinet", about the narrow, over-moderate stance of the Nobel peace prize winner.

But Gwiazda and the other zealots in the opposition will certainly subscribe to Mr Walesa's declaration at the graveside on Saturday: "Solidarity lives because you, Father Popieluszko, died for it."

Power by proxy: Robert Fisk on the Saudis' key role in US strategy



The flying brainbox: an Awacs takes off on patrol

Sky spies putting the Gulf under America's wing

Jeddah Every morning at 5 am, the powerful, thrumming sound of jets vibrating through houses behind the old airport outside Riyadh. A few minutes later, the familiar shape of one of America's Awacs reconnaissance aircraft rises into the thin red dawn, its white radar dish outlined against the horizon. The plane is a symbol of America's determination to defend Saudi Arabia, for it is flying far out over the Gulf, so that its American crew can watch the Iranian air traffic over the port of Bushehr. Officially, the plane is manned jointly by Americans and Saudis. In practice, there is sometimes only one Saudi and 14 Americans aboard.

Officially, the Awacs is sending all its intelligence back to Saudi air bases. In fact, its detailed appreciation of Iranian and Iraqi air movements is fed not just to the Saudis but to Washington, and thus to the Sixth Fleet destroyers steaming through the Hormuz Strait up to Manama. In the fire control centres of the six vessels that regularly make the run through the rough, humid waterway, American commanders are informed of every jet - Iraqi MiGs or Iranian F-5s - in the air south of a line running through the Iranian town of Susangerd.

The Saudi air defence system and American military intelligence in the Gulf area - albeit publicly symbolized only by that lone down plane - are therefore locked into each other, to the mutual benefit of both parties. There are American contract staff

now working on almost every Saudi airbase and officials at the Saudi defence ministry have already approved an estimated one thousand transit passes for the Americans through Saudi airspace this year, many of which permit US military jets to touch down in the kingdom.

The Americans can afford to feel relieved, not least because their much-trumpeted shipment of 400 Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia last spring did not have to be put to the test. In private, US military officials themselves concede that the Stinger has a rating far higher than its real value, indeed that its deployment inside Saudi Arabia would have been positively dangerous.

As one military official outside the country put it the other day, "anyone firing off a Stinger is likely to hit the cockpit rather than the plane he's shooting at. Maybe the captain of an oil tanker could use it against a slow reconnaissance jet. But those missiles have a range of only about three kilometres and they should be kept strictly under lock and key." To the relief of the Americans - and with their encouragement that is exactly what the Saudis have done with them.

It is still the Saudis who are flying defence air patrols over the Gulf. Saudi rather than American pilots are crewing the F-15s, flying in twos and threes down the coastline from Mina Saud to the oil port of Ras Tanarab. It was a Saudi not an American pilot who shot down that marauding Iranian jet earlier this year and the result was immediate:

there have been far fewer Iranian attacks on shipping close to the Saudi coast.

If all this, however, appears to reflect a growing confidence on the part of the Saudis, there is a political corollary for the other, smaller, more vulnerable Gulf states with important implications. The Saudis, for example, are setting up a new computer defence system that can link up the Hawk anti-aircraft batteries along their coast with those in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Military sources along the Gulf coast suggest that British and French-manufactured rockets have also been tested through the new American-supplied computer grid based in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

It is this centre that receives the intelligence from the Awacs jets. The Saudis are now in a position to pass on this information to their partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Last week, there were reports that the GCC states - the Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman - were test firing missiles during their joint exercises at Hater el Batin in Saudi Arabia. The Kuwaitis, it is now being said, are receiving most of the Saudi intelligence about Iranian air movements.

This means that the Saudis are steadily bringing the defence structure of all Gulf states under their own control. They can claim to know more about the Gulf war, and they are certainly better equipped than any of their military partners in the GCC. The various intelligence services are still suspicious of each other and are reluctant to exchange

information, but if a new threat emerges from Iran, it will be the Saudis who make the decisions and their military allies who have to agree.

At a series of ministerial meetings of the Gulf States in the coming months, the Saudis are likely to suggest a further increase in technical and intelligence information between themselves and their partners, an offer which none of the allies is in a position to refuse. Meanwhile, the Saudis are keeping their own diplomatic links open with Iran and are, effectively, the only nation outside Syria now trying to broker an agreement between Tehran and Baghdad.

The Saudis are totally reliant upon American knowledge and American weaponry to defend their kingdom. They have spent an estimated \$27.3bn on US arms over the past 30 years, \$18bn alone in the past five years. It is therefore Washington which provides the arms and the intelligence to defend Saudi Arabia. If the Saudis can now control their neighbours' defence strategy, it means that the US has a greater political, as well as military, hold than it has ever had before over the oil states of the Gulf.

If Washington suggests that the Saudis should mediate a new peace, the Saudis are going to have to listen - as are Saudi Arabia's partners.

All this might explain why President Reagan's administration seems less concerned about the volatility of the Gulf region these days.

An army marching on its haute cuisine

But producing good food in well-equipped kitchens is the easy bit. The real test is to be able to achieve good standards in field kitchens or aboard ship in battle conditions.

One officer said: "If our cooks are trained to a peak of excellence when working in good conditions, then they will be able to cope better when they have to work in adverse conditions."

The Egon Ronay inspectors visiting a field kitchen set up in a German barn found a lunch that included croquette potatoes "better than in most steak bars" and baked spicy apple. "How they managed to produce such a treat under such conditions is extraordinary."

But circumstances can produce constraints. For a long time after the recapture of the Falkland Islands

chips were a rarity in the garrison and almost became a delicacy. Working under great pressure, and with improvised facilities, the preparation of chips was too labour-intensive, and it was difficult to maintain the fat at the correct temperature for making good chips.

Despite the difficulties the forces were proud of their field cooking and important visitors. The Falklands were regularly taken to lunch at an improvised canteen known locally as "Tin Strip", which was surrounded by mud for much of the year.

The sheer scale of service catering is vast. The army alone serves about 105 million meals a year in nearly 1,000 localities, and gets through about 38 million eggs in the process.

At the time of the survey the

catering services were allowed \$1.09p a day per person, recovered through deductions from each individual's pay. This sum, which has recently risen by 3p a day, was calculated to cover a balanced diet of about 3,000 calories a day.

Through pay deductions the services recover about £80m of the £130m which they spend on food. The balance of £50m goes on catering in special circumstances, providing operational ration packs for situations where there are no catering facilities and such like.

In view of Egon Ronay's findings, it comes as no surprise that in Frankfurt's Culinary Olympics last month, five of the 14-strong British team which won 49 awards had been, or still were, involved in service catering.

Meanwhile, the United States army team was managed by a British major, and included two warrant officers, all on exchange postings from the Army Catering Corps.

Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Simon Jenkins

The jeer-leaders helping Scargill

Arthur Scargill has a music hall routine. He stops in the middle of a speech and turns to the journalists gathered in front of him. He mimics the photographers, taunts the reporters, mockingly pleads with them to "go straight", to become "born-again journalists". He is funny. He appears almost to love them. Then he slams them with the latest "lies" they have told about him and returns briskly to his main theme. His audience roars approval. The journalists are secretly flattered.

This little act of both engaging the media and stripping it of authority in front of his supporters is in deadly earnest. Scargill is one of the most remarkable, instinctive exploiters of publicity in British politics. Neither the National Coal Board nor the Government has anything to match him.

A strike is unlike any other news story. It is not an exercise in finding facts, adding context, garnering hostile reaction. It is more like a war. It evokes emotion and partisanship in readers and viewers, and reporters too. What is reported can become a proxy for war. Thus, in the coal dispute, who is winning the presentation battle? Whose executive is most split? Who shoots himself most often in the foot? When every other weapon has been exhausted, column inches are the only body count.

Mr Scargill, Mr Ian MacGregor and their colleagues read and listen to the media continuously. In the absence of conciliation, it is the only common agenda to which each has to react, and dominates conversation when negotiating teams meet each morning. They know a bad interview or a mistaken quote sends immediate shockwaves through their organizations, and out to those on whose morale they depend for victory. He who best orchestrates the news has a running advantage.

Mr Scargill orchestrates it best because he is allowed to. He has turned to his credit both a judiciously biased press and the television presentation of picket-line violence. The fact that it enrages Tory voters in the South and embarrasses his pet hate, Mr Neil Kinnock, is of no concern. What Mr Scargill needs is that electric word "Scab!" on the screen every night, with fierce illustration of what awaits any miner pondering a return to work.

Press bias is even more golden. As Mr Scargill showed at Blackpool and since, it offers him the mantle of socialist martyrdom, fighting not just the coal board but Tories, press barons, employers, the whole pantheon of capitalism. To carry conviction, all he requires is regular evidence of blatant distortion. The bigger the distortion - about his lists, the drift back to work, or his personal lifestyle - the easier to claim that all media coverage is unreliable and biased.

Fleet Street obliges Scargill daily: its loathing for him is almost palpable. It searches for derogatory material, exaggerating every slip; the photograph comparing him with Hitler has become one of his most effective props. Wishful thinking shows down on him from the headlines. First he was to fail for

refusing a ballot, then through the drift back to work, splits in his executive, when power workers refused support, through the backlash against picket-line violence, and now through the longevity of coal stocks.

Eight months into the dispute Mr Scargill is still alive and kicking. A public kept in ignorance of the nature of his support, and told merely of his idiocy, grows ever more mystified at his survival. It is the tale of dud propaganda down the ages - inevitably, the worm begins to turn. As confident predictions of victory fail to materialize, Scargill ceases to be anti-hero and becomes the admired loner, he who could just win.

Folls claim that a third of the country sympathizes with him rather than with the coal board. His intransigence takes on an aura of high principle. His immaculately staged pronouncements seem a little more plausible. Not since Jack Dash, who killed London's docks as Mr Scargill is now killing coal, has the press so glorified a union leader in the minds of his militant supporters.

The NCB and Government have conducted their response mostly through the confidential lobby system. Never has this archaic form of news management been more ham-fisted. The industrial lobby, honoured with off-the-record coal board and ministry briefings, spent the early months of the strike in London, writing daily of its impending "crumbling". Meanwhile, the Downing Street lobby tells of "ministers' satisfaction" at the course of the dispute or "concern at picket-line violence", in anonymous terms which make little claim to space alongside Mr Scargill's beguiling histrionics.

At one point, Whitehall even believed that any publicity for Mr Scargill was bad publicity and left him to it. Now such recklessness is over, and there is simply an uncoordinated confusion of faces and comments from the coal board and Government side. One minute Downing Street is abuzz with special Cabinet sub-committees and emergency sessions, the next, "the strike is entirely a coal board matter". Only Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, has been reasonably sure-footed, circumventing the lobbies with individual, carefully guided, briefings of his own.

Last week saw the nemesis of ineptitude by the anti-Scargill forces: the extraordinary undermining of Mr MacGregor's leadership by both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Walker. It had nothing to do with the collapse of the Acat initiative, in fact a major turning point in the dispute. It was a sign of the Cabinet's fury at Mr MacGregor for ruining media exploitation of the NUM-Libya connexion by silencing his aide, Mr Michael Eaton. At the precise moment when a united front and a steady nerve were required, Mr Scargill's enemies were tearing each other apart over presentation. He now has them fighting on his terms in a battle at which he is master. It is a sorry tale.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*

Anne Sofer

Big Apple's lesson in original sin

Imagine a city: world-famous, magnetic, cosmopolitan, endowed with all the superlatives. The most brilliant theatres and the most towering tower blocks; the most miles of traffic jam and the highest number of mother-tongues; the hairiest drug problem and the best remunerated public servants. Imagine, during a period of political upheaval, a radical and crusading leader appearing on the scene and causing electrical turbulence all around him: denouncing his own bureaucracy; conspicuously espousing the cause of the ethnic minorities; announcing expensive new programmes every few days; mounting a major attack on police corruption, while middle-class prejudice, and official indifference.

It is not imaginary. The city is New York, not London, and the leader in question is not the working-class Ken Livingstone, but the patrician Republican John Lindsay, who was mayor from 1965 to 1973. I have recently finished a book about his administration, seen from the vantage point of a high-ranking city official who lived through the period.

For iconoclasm and charisma the first Lindsay administration leaves Livingstone's GLC standing. The GLC has proved nothing to match the radical chic of Lindsay, aides who busied themselves at the time of the ghetto riots by fraternising with black militant leaders. Nor can Londoners compete with the transatlantic talent for political melodrama. What about this, for instance?

"Mike Quill" (leader of the transport union which has just called an illegal strike) "tore up the injunction before the television cameras, shouting 'Let the judge drop dead in his black robes', and was carried off to prison where he suffered a dramatic heart attack."

All the same, the parallels between the two regimes are remarkable. Both have generated rapidly alternating loyalty and odium, and both have been sufficiently controversial to provoke a higher level of government to intervene. Relations between Lindsay as mayor and Rockefeller as New York State governor reached a low in 1972 when Rockefeller set up a commission to examine ways of breaking the power of the mayor and decentralizing city government to the boroughs. During the same

period the annual round of bargaining over state support for the city budget grew increasingly rancorous, and finally a species of rate-capping control was introduced.

At this stage of the story New York history moves ahead of London reality. The New York response to its equivalent of rate-capping was the invention of flamboyant budgetary devices which make our own municipal treasurers' "creative accountancy" look distant and unimaginative. Although, as we all know, it ended leading the city on the edge of bankruptcy, I will be surprised if desperate London politicians do not sift through the experience for some transferable short-term expedients.

Reflection on New York is a useful corrective to a number of developing myths about the present-day GLC. One is that there is something essentially socialist about the disorganising of funds to demanding, but not particularly scrutinized, "community" and "protest" groups. In fact this practice is as inimical to conventional Republicanism as it is to socialism, and has far more to do with "white middle-class liberal guilt". Charles Norris concludes that Lindsay's achievement in this field was to accelerate the healthy growth of a black middle class, but to let the problems of poverty as serious as ever, and relations between the races considerably impaired.

Another myth is that somewhere a portfolio of urban solutions exists, and that all that is needed to effect a transformation is the intrusion of committed and intelligent reformers into the tired old bureaucratic structures. Many forceful radicals cut their teeth in Lindsay's first administration and went on to highly successful positions elsewhere. But their arrogant treatment of the career public servants did as much harm as good and the problems remained when they had gone.

My fervent hope is that somewhere in County Hall, along those miles of pompous paneled corridors, we too are blessed with an observant, meticulous, poker-faced official who is even now preparing an outline of the history of the last three years.

"The cost of good intentions: New York City and the Liberal experiment," by Charles Morris, Norton & Co, 1980. Anne Sofer is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

صكزامن الاصل



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LEGACY OF BLOOD

Nine hundred people are reported to have been killed in India in the four days of violence which followed Mrs Gandhi's assassination. That is a horrific figure, comparable to - indeed, probably exceeding - the number of Palestinians killed in the massacre which shocked the world in the wake of the assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel of Lebanon two years ago.

Coming on top of the bloodshed in Punjab earlier in the year, and last year's no less horrible massacres in Assam, these events show that, nearly forty years after the holocaust which accompanied partition, India is still very far from overcoming its demonic tradition of communal violence. They make, to say the least, a most inauspicious start for Mr Rajiv Gandhi's government.

Beyond the immediate problem of restoring law and order - which clearly requires measures of the utmost firmness - and beyond the election campaign which Mr Gandhi will probably be well advised to get out of the way quickly, profiting from the

wave of sympathy provoked by his mother's death and legitimizing his own position as national leader, it is clear that these regional and communal tensions constitute by far the most urgent problem on his government's agenda. To solve them may be at best the work of several generations; but to manage them better than they have been managed in recent years may be the necessary condition for India to continue the economic progress which is the most positive legacy of Indira Gandhi's years in power.

In approaching this problem, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has essentially two options: the approach of his grandfather and that of his mother. Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of India encompassed both a strong centre and independent, firmly established state authorities. That duality was not easy to manage, but through it he was able to reconcile the diverse character and aspirations of the various Indian peoples with their consolidation into an effective Union. Thus in the 1950s and 60s there were strong chief ministers in the regions who

stood up to Nehru on regional issues while accepting an overriding loyalty to the principles of the Congress Party, to which both they and he belonged.

By contrast Indira Gandhi, lacking her father's self-confidence and broad vision, sought to establish her power through the sheer weight of a dominant centre. She crushed the regional authorities, rendering them ineffective as vehicles of local self-expression, and making the regional chief ministers mere lackeys, loyal only to her person. The result was that the inherent forces of regionalism, excluded from the Congress system, manifested themselves in opposition to it and increasingly in the form of separatist movements.

In the short term the Indira Gandhi approach looks the easier and safer of the two. But the contrast between the India she has left and the India she inherited seems eloquent testimony in her father's favour. Mr Rajiv Gandhi will of course seek to preserve his mother's legacy, and so he should. But that may not be best achieved by slavish continuation of all her policies.

POISONED BAIT FOR MR KINNOCK

The session of this Parliament which the Queen will open tomorrow will not foreordain the state of parties in the House of Commons after the next election. Yet the coming year may well determine whether Mrs Thatcher goes forward with a reasonable prospect of the clear majority she needs for a third Conservative term, and it seems even more likely that the months immediately ahead will establish whether the Labour Party has anything like a real chance of competing with her from a position in which its own defeat is not virtually certain.

For Mrs Thatcher, of course, the fundamental question is how the government is to respond convincingly to the pressures on it over unemployment without turning its back on the standards of financial rectitude in government spending and borrowing that have been the hallmark of its past policies. Its success in dealing with this challenge may hang as much on its language and demeanour as on the development of policy.

For Mr Kinnock, however, the challenge is much sharper and easier to assess. It comes at this stage not from Mrs Thatcher or from the Alliance parties but from within the Labour movement. It is a challenge that is encapsulated in Mr Scargill's invitation to Mr Kinnock to join him at a series of rallies in support of the National Union of Mineworkers' strike. Mr Scargill's motive is clear. It is to tie Mr Kinnock and the Labour Party unambiguously to himself and his strategy as he drives the NUM chariot towards what he

hopes will be a victory over the government by non-parliamentary methods.

Mr Scargill is bent on total victory without compromise. He has rejected every offer made to him by the coal board and has himself moved not an inch. His attitude is the negation of the negotiating conventions on which trade unionism has been built. He denies his members a ballot and ignores the fact that one-third of them continue working in the face of threats and danger, and the probability that very many more would work if the massed pickets would let them. He is indifferent to the suffering he is causing his members; he does not argue or debate but simply asserts.

If he were to win (and such is the mood of the country and of the mass of rank-and-file trade unionists that it is hard to see how he could) it would only be because the intimidation of massed pickets had prevailed. That is not a victory to which Mr Kinnock can afford to be party. The miners he should support are those who are working in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, both because they have been denied the ballot they want and because the cause for which they are asked to strike is not the interests of their industry but the unconditional surrender of the coal board and of the government which finances the industry with the nation's money.

As the leader of a constitutional party Mr Kinnock cannot afford to be closely identified with Mr Scargill's aims or methods. Of course, the Labour leader will incur some

risks if he refuses the invitation to attend the rallies that take place after the first, which coincides with the opening of Parliament tomorrow. He will in particular alienate the hard left and its Militant and Trotskyist allies. Their displeasure with the moderate shadow Cabinet, which the parliamentary party has just elected, has already been made manifest in talk about transferring this right of election from the party in parliament to the party outside. Mr Kinnock himself owes much to the broad left for his rise in the Labour Party and it will not be easy for him to incur its wrath.

Yet by far the greater danger for Mr Kinnock would lie in accepting Mr Scargill's bait. For while the extremist left will continue to harry Mr Kinnock whatever concessions he makes, he must know that he cannot hope to win a general election as leader of the kind of Labour Party which the extremists and Mr Scargill wish to fashion. The majority of Labour voters is not Scargillite, nor is the majority of the trade union rank-and-file, as the failure of the attempt to bind the TUC to the NUM cause has made clear. It is only at the head of this other and more moderate Labour movement that Mr Kinnock can stand a chance of avoiding another serious defeat for Labour. He should take heart from the signs that even the soft left in parliament is now tending to seek common ground with the moderates on which to resist extremism. For Mr Kinnock to enroll in Mr Scargill's cause now would be to increase the chances of his own failure and his party's ruin.

WITHDRAW AND REFLECT

The government should give notice that it intends in December next year to leave the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. The decision should be made independently of whether the United States leaves in a month's time and oblivious of the apparent desire of the Germans, Swiss and Dutch to be given a lead. Unesco's charter was adopted in London 39 years ago. British intellect and diplomatic endeavour speeded the foundation. A British Prime Minister (or, more accurately, Mr Attlee's press secretary, Mr Francis Williams) gave Unesco its banner head phrase about constructing the defences of peace in the minds of men. In Unesco's affairs, Britain has a singular voice which needs no chorus.

The reasons for such a decision have little to do with the personality of Mr M'Bow, whose evident enjoyment of the power and perks of his office as director-general has attracted controversy. Mr M'Bow is a victim of the collapse of the conventions underpinning the role of international civil servants. That he draws his bureaucratic ethics less from Dag Hammarskjöld than the ministry of education in Dakar simply reflects the passage of the United Nations into an era when western norms are rejected by the bureaucrats as well as the voting blocks of member states. Yet Mr M'Bow cannot be held responsible for administrative failings that ante-date his tenure: the rot had set into Unesco's budgetary processes long before 1974.

Administrative failings there are, gross and expensive (though the cost to Britain of Unesco's regular programme should not be exaggerated - it is less than the Greater London Council's

current advertising budget). The draft report of the United States General Accounting Office that is now in wide circulation makes points in general and in specific about apparent favouritism in grants and fellowships, inadequate reporting, duplication of effort and above all the absence of a sense of purpose in many activities. These are failings that cry out for some approximation of Lord Rayner's scrutiny, and for the political authority to back that up.

The simple arithmetic of withdrawal would bring, within a year or so, either shrinkage of what even the kindest of Unesco's western friends considers a bloated package or, better still, tighter management and economies. But withdrawal is now required for reasons other than alleged peculation or managerial slovenliness.

Departure from Unesco could be an occasion for reflection on the essential purposes of this and the other multilateral agencies. Does membership bring a measurable national benefit? Is the aim to help deserving countries or individuals abroad? Is Unesco merely another arena for plausible diplomacy? Which of Unesco's functions might be better served independently either by bilateral contact (Britain is a member in good standing of a host of scientific bodies) or through other international agencies with a specialized purpose? (This could be the time, if the government is serious about educational interchange, for some reappraisal of its short-sighted policies on overseas students in Britain.)

There is detectable in Britain a wave of guilt as a founder member that Unesco's grand designs have come to nothing, that Unesco has itself fomented discord, blocked the exchange of

knowledge and trampled on the rights of individuals, in the service of ideologies antithetical to its own liberal precepts. When today the UK National Commission meets there will be talk of working within its structure. But the evidence is that Unesco's legitimacy derives from its representativeness. Without the United States that symbolic strength collapses; without Britain it weakens further.

Is reform possible? In a basic sense, no. Unesco's partial declarations on "peace" and the "new world order" in communications stem from a world view, that of the majority of member states, at odds with its foundation document. Within Unesco the West has been on the defensive for over a decade; diplomatic containment, the British stance, is wearying and often fails.

The American mood (to be strengthened after the presidential election?) is to put an end to subsidized abuse. For Britain, the time has come to match Unesco's principles with its practice and act decisively. Between and within the blocks in Unesco there are swing votes, statelets which might be struck dumb by the withdrawal of their paymasters-cum-whipping boys. When the United States pulled out of the International Labour Organization in 1977 concerned efforts were made to get the organization (constituted differently from Unesco) back on the rails. The ILO, its director-general said, had been stimulated by the resulting fiscal and political difficulties. Unless and until Mr M'Bow is persuaded to act accordingly, Britain should plan its departure. There is nothing to stop Britain rejoining Unesco if and when it changes its ways and merits our membership.

New approach to the coal strike

From Sir Gwyneth Davies

Sir, Now that NCB/NUM negotiations at top level have again broken down, has the time come to seek agreements at more local level and to amend the 1947 Act in ways that would help this?

Under the centralised structure set up in 1947, decision-making became more remote than before and the old fires of antagonism between miner and management continued to burn. But much was achieved because, at the centre, the leaders of the board and the union (with the support of the ministers of the day) cooperated to make a success of the industry.

Continuation of that cooperation was put in doubt when the union decided to move from London. And its resumption becomes increasingly unlikely as the present bitter strike continues and the differences between working and striking miner and between pit and pit sharpen.

The situation is too serious for settlement to continue to await eventual agreement between the two central leaderships. And it is in any case necessary for a settlement to take into account the great differences that have emerged between localities. Should not further efforts be concentrated, therefore, on more local negotiations?

There could be merit, also, in an early declaration of intent by the Government to amend the 1947 Act and to adjust the present organisation of the industry so as to facilitate local agreements and give new hope to the hard-hit mining communities. There can be no return to the pre-nationalisation structure. But a more decentralised organisation of the board, giving more responsibility to pit management and strengthening their links with their workers, might help.

Powers might also be made available so that, where appropriate, the ownership of the assets could be transferred to miners' co-operatives or other local interests ready to take responsibility for running the pits (possibly with the help of tapering subsidies and specialised marketing and other services from the board).

Again, morale might be raised if the board were given clear powers to help in new job-creation where (after careful consultation and review) a pit closure was found to be unavoidable. Yours faithfully, GORONWY DANIEL, Ridge Farm, Llanerston, Denbigh, November 1.

Famine in Ethiopia

From Mr Evan Luard

Sir, It is not evident that, so long as we try to meet the problems of famine in African countries by improvised air-lifting of supplies from thousands of miles away, the relief that gets there is certain to be too little and too late?

For over 10 years there have been proposals for the creation of an emergency food reserve that could be stored in the countries most likely to be at risk. These proposals have been endorsed by most of the international bodies concerned and were commended in the Brandt report.

They have not been implemented mainly because of an undignified dispute about whether the costs of building storage facilities should be paid for mainly by donor countries or the recipients, or by some other means.

It is evident that relief could be provided far more quickly, and thousands of lives perhaps saved, if food stocks were available closer at hand.

Is it too much to hope that the appalling experience of the famine in Ethiopia will stimulate fresh discussions of this question, together with perhaps a recognition among Western countries that an offer to pay for the necessary storage may cost them less in the long run than expensive airlifts in times of emergency (and little more than the cost of storing large surpluses in Western countries)?

The other long-term lesson is surely that a larger proportion of Western aid should be devoted to helping food production in poor countries. At present the percentage of British aid devoted to all forms of agriculture is only 7 per cent (\$64m out of \$900m that is allocatable by sector), according to the latest OECD (DAC) survey of aid programmes. It is surely a proportion that should be drastically increased.

Yours faithfully, EVAN LUARD, St Antony's College, Oxford, October 24.

Missing silence

From Mr Percy S. Gourgey

Sir, As an ex-serviceman who was a naval officer in the Second World War, together with millions of other ex-servicemen, I take part in the Cenotaph ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. My colleagues and I feel appalled at the general lack of observance outside the immediate vicinity of the Cenotaph, of the two-minute ceremony in memory of our fallen comrades. Traffic moves, people shop, pedestrians hurry along in total unconcern about this important occasion. Is there no limit to cynicism?

May one appeal to the general public to pause for two minutes in silent tribute to those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today? Yours faithfully, PERCY S. GOURGEY, 4 Poplar Court, Richmond Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Irish consultation over the border

From Mr F. F. Steele

Sir, In the final two paragraphs of the impressive analysis in your leading article of October 29 you eloquently urge that in the light of developments in thinking in Dublin (though one wonders whether Mr Charles Haughey and Fianna Fail are of the same mind in this as Dr Garret Fitzgerald and Fine Gael), the British Government should look again at cross-border consultation, institutions and forums, provided they do not compromise Northern Ireland's status as part of the United Kingdom, and that this should be done gradually, carrying the confidence of both sides.

All this is very fine and grand; but it has been widely understood and accepted for a decade now. And the problem with this policy is still not its enunciation in these broad terms, but the nitty-gritty of its detailed implementation. For example, what is the actual structure of intergovernmental institutions which would even be reluctantly accepted by, let alone carry the confidence of, both sides?

All attempts by successive British governments to introduce this policy have so far failed because moves which would satisfy the nationalists alarm the unionists (who have occasionally taken action to stop them, e.g. the strike which killed off Sunningdale) and, conversely, moves which are acceptable to the unionists are regarded as inadequate by the nationalists.

There has therefore been a tendency to conclude that the time was not yet right for such moves and that we must all soldier on until it was. Is the time now right? For the sake of Ireland, both North and South, one hopes so, but without much optimism.

You refer to the attempt to "placate" (as you put it) the IRA by the "truce" talks in 1972. It is still instructive to look back at those talks, though it is unpopular to talk of the IRA as anything other than

murderers with whom there must be no contact.

The "truce" talks are now regarded by most British politicians and unionists and many nationalists as a serious and damaging mistake. It is conveniently forgotten in the atmosphere of today that in the aftermath of the introduction of direct rule, many moderate nationalists and some unionists and others wanted us to hold talks with the IRA; and it is not to the credit of the British Government of the time that in their search for a solution to Ireland's problems and for an end to the bloodshed in the North, they were prepared to talk even to the IRA and to risk the odium of this?

There were then - and I do not doubt that there still are - idealists as well as fanatics and psychopaths in the IRA. But a major difficulty with the IRA is that its thinking is not too simplistic for these complex problems. For example, when it was put to them that if they really wanted a united Ireland, then instead of bombing the North into a social, economic and industrial slum they should persuade the unionists that the two parts of the island could live and work together in harmony and prosperity, their reply was that it would not be until they had, by the use of violence, induced the British to leave Ireland, that the unionists would come down to earth and make a reasonable agreement with the republicans.

And there is the further problem that the present IRA seems to want not just a united Ireland but a united militant or revolutionary socialist Ireland.

The ultimate solution is doubtless that of the united islands of Great Britain and the island of Ireland. But as a Southern Irish official once said to me when we were discussing the concept: "It is too soon after Cromwell". Yours faithfully, FRANK STEELE, 9 Ashley Gardens, SW1, October 30.

Racism and police

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Ronald Butt (October 25) has once again displayed the blind spot which sadly impairs his understanding of race relations.

He claims that Lord Scarman's proposal that racially discriminatory behaviour be made a specific disciplinary offence against the police code of conduct is unnecessary because such conduct may already be a breach of the provision of the code prohibiting "discreditable conduct".

The disciplinary code itself makes it clear that proceedings for discreditable conduct should be brought sparingly and "wherever possible a more specific charge should be laid. There can be no possible harm in spelling out explicitly that racial discrimination is an offence against the code and it is plainly beneficial that those who have reason to fear discrimination by the police should have this assurance.

Because Mr Butt has chosen to resuscitate well-worn arguments against race relations legislation, it is necessary to refute them once again.

Mr Butt says that making racially discriminatory behaviour a specific offence is to create a special privilege for members of a single racial group. This is untrue. All those who suffer discrimination are equally protected. If black people receive greater protection that is only because they suffer more discrimination. To claim that they are

specially privileged is as logical as it would be to claim that the law against burglary confers a privilege on those who happen to be burgled.

2. Mr Butt says that enforcement is impossible because it involves an assessment of motive rather than behaviour. This again is untrue. Industrial tribunals and courts have dealt with a large number of discrimination cases since 1968 and in many of them have been able to establish discrimination. Courts are quite accustomed to determining intention.

3. Mr Butt says the burden of proof rests with the policeman to establish that he has not discriminated. This is also untrue. Whoever alleges discrimination must prove it.

4. Mr Butt says it is illogical to limit the specific discriminatory offence to racial discrimination as distinct from discrimination on other grounds. "Why should not the police code include a special protection for homosexuals and lesbians (sic) or even for women?"

Here he makes a fair point; there is no good reason for withholding protection from all groups who are subjected to unfair discrimination. Mr Butt's support for extending the police code to discrimination on grounds of sex and sexual orientation would be widely welcomed.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY BINDMAN, Bindman and Partners, So, 1 Euston Road, King's Cross, NW1, October 29.

Unity or union

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Warrage and MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader of European "Unity or union" (October 25) represents a profound misunderstanding of the realities of European politics. It is one which, alas, is all too current in Britain, and which lies at the root of President Mitterrand's observation - which you describe as "rather curious" - that Britain and France do not have "the same conceptions of Europe".

Even more to the point, he might have added that the conception of Europe reflected in your leader seems increasingly to diverge from that of all the other member states of the Community, and perhaps, Greece.

Your central misjudgment is expressed in the single sentence, that "the Community is, as de Gaulle taught it to be, a 'union des differences'". From the start two different principles have been at play in the growth of the Community - the principle of cooperation between separate states, and that of the integration of some of the policies and functions of those states.

While the one has never driven out the other, at different times each of these different principles has been more prominent than the other - "integration" in the 1950s, "cooperation" in the early 1960s and late 1970s. The pendulum is now swinging strongly back towards the principle of integration.

It is quite simply a mistake to suppose that only one of these principles - that of cooperation and

"unity" rather than "union" - has now established itself as the Community norm. You are led to conclude that the French President either does not know what he means or does not mean what he says. And, of course, as we have come to expect of *The Times*, you are also led to overlook the views of Germany - now probably the most important country in the Community - not to mention those of Italy and the Benelux.

These are all countries which have deliberately chosen not to base their politics on the idea of fatherland, or for which historical reasons, it would be very dangerous to do so. The French are profoundly sensitive to this situation and it is the basis of the intimate coalition between Paris and Bonn. We, on the other hand, seem hardly to recognize its existence.

As the sad history of our relations with continental Europe since the war shows, this error imposes heavy costs. Our European policy since 1945 is a miserable tale of missed opportunities, failed attempts to obstruct, and, ultimately, of reluctant accommodations to facts established by others. That you can still write as you do merely shows how long it takes for unwelcome truths to sink in.

"This theme of union simply confuses the issue": you probably wrote the same thing in 1950 when Britain was still one of the "Big Three" - but in 1984 this observation merely seems pathetic.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT JACKSON, House of Commons, October 26.

Years lightly worn

From Professor Anita Brookner

Sir, I am disturbed by your increasing cheerfulness, as shown in today's profile of Erica Jong (November 2).

On October 30 you saw fit to allude - in bold type - to my age. In order to save you further trouble in this matter, allow me to put the record straight. I am 46, and have been for some years past. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, ANITA BROOKNER, Flat 6, 68 Elm Park Gardens, SW10.

Puzzling pound

From Mr Arthur Super

Sir, No *Times* reader should be puzzled about the vagaries of the pound.

When it falls against the dollar under a Labour Government it is bad and reflects universal distrust of Labour policies.

When it falls under a Conservative Government it is good, because this encourages our exports. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR SUPER, 49 Clapton Common, E5, October 31.

India's scene of intolerance

From Mr Jeremy Solnick

Sir, I am one of many Europeans who, travelling overland to India, stayed for a while in Amritsar at the Golden Temple maintained by the Sikh community.

The peace and tranquillity of that lodging house and the tolerance displayed by the Sikhs to all races and creeds who stayed there, coming in sharp contrast to the practices of my country of upbringing, South Africa, made the Golden Temple a symbol of equality and tolerance for me.

It is appalling that this symbol should now be destroyed by a fanaticism that has resulted in the death of a woman who, for all her faults, was universally regarded as a wise and compassionate leader.

My grief is not for the woman, but for India and those who love her. JEREMY SOLNICK, 97 Russell Avenue, Chiswick, W4, November 1.

From Mr V. Sutcliffe

Sir, Your leader writer (November 1) takes the murder of Mrs Gandhi as an instance of the "real, physical, personal violence" which makes political leaders deaf to cries of "social violence of poverty and unemployment". It bears remark that the thousands of Indian citizens who starve to death each year have experience of real, physical, social violence.

Yours faithfully, V. SUTCLIFFE, 36 Parklands Road, SW16.

From Mr Michael Mercado

Sir, Mrs Gandhi has been described as a great democrat by those paying tribute to her following her death. Yet surely her actions during the emergency of 1975-1977 were not those of a democrat but of a tyrant.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MERCADO, 854 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

A charge on business

From Mr Philip Bayliss

Sir, That National Westminster Bank is to start giving personal customers a detailed breakdown of bank charges on customers' statements (report, October 30) is good news. But where does this leave *re-business* account?

Many of the bank's business customers have been in account for a number of years and are well known to the local manager, whether personally or through a wealth of historical information.

Whenever a new application for finance is considered the bank will want to examine several factors and the business customer will need to provide all the relevant information to secure a quick and efficient decision. He will have to reveal his balance sheets and accounts (the last three or four years if established that long). An update of the latest balance sheet giving the most recent figures of debtors, creditors and stock will have to be provided.

In addition, the following information is vital: a cash-flow projection; profit forecasts; existing commitments; the powers of the company and its directors; the present directors' and their bank; how the new borrowing will be used and the results expected from the planned expenditure.

Given the wealth of information the business customer conveys to his bank (and the above list is by no means exhaustive) it would be equitable were National Westminster Bank to give business as well as personal customers a detailed breakdown of bank charges. This would greatly assist the business customer in his or her dealings with the bank and is well within the means of National Westminster Bank since every service it offers is enhanced by an advanced computer capability.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP BAYLISS, Chairman, Executive Committee, Association of Independent Businesses, Trowbarrow House, 108 Weston Street, SE1.

Sinking of the Titanic

From Lord Mersey

Sir, Sir Andrew Duff Gordon (October 27) should get his own facts right if he finds Bernard Levin inaccurate.

It was not Lord Birkenhead who conducted the enquiry into the sinking but my great-grandfather, the first Viscount Mersey.

In his report to the court my grandfather writes "The very gross charge against Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon that having got into number one boat he bribed the men in it to row away from drowning people is unfounded" (30 July 1912).

So at least my great-grandfather exonerated Sir Andrew Duff Gordon's great-uncle.

Yours faithfully, MERSEY, Bignor Park, Pulborough, Sussex.

Sauce of learning

From Miss Phyllis Birt

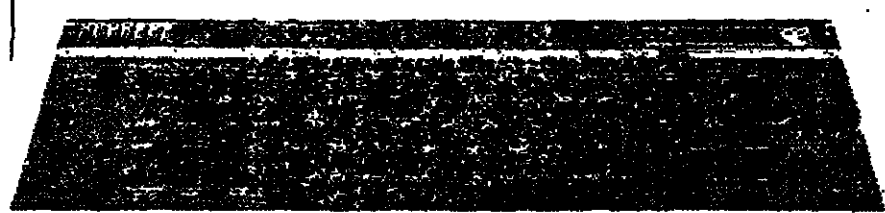
Sir, I too, regret the passing of the French label on the HP sauce bottle. What does this portend?

Already the officer and his Indian servant on the Camp coffee bottle have become much smaller, and the last time I bought a bottle of Dr Colfax Browne's medicine the testimonials from Whympster and the doctor struggling against cholera in India had disappeared.

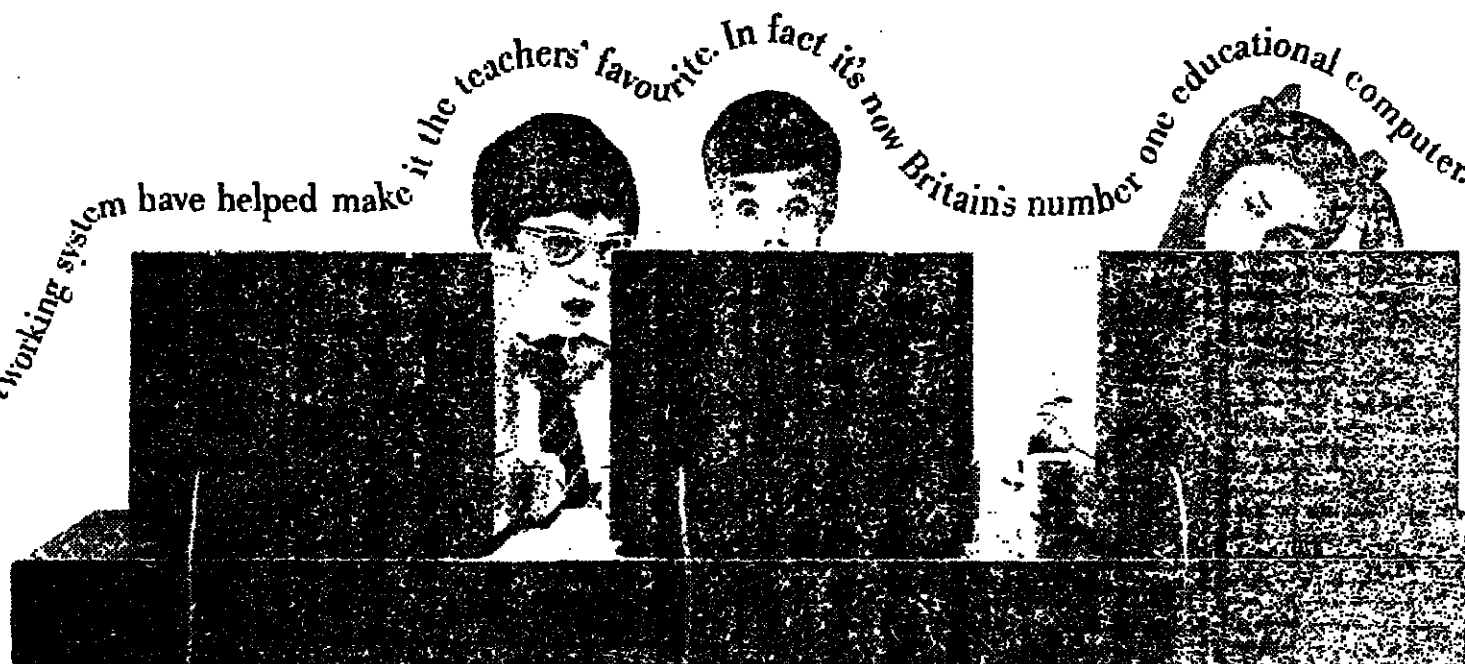
Will the lion disappear from the Tate and Lyle syrup tin?

Yours faithfully, PHYLLIS BIRT, 309 Grenville House, Dolphin Square, SW1, October 29.

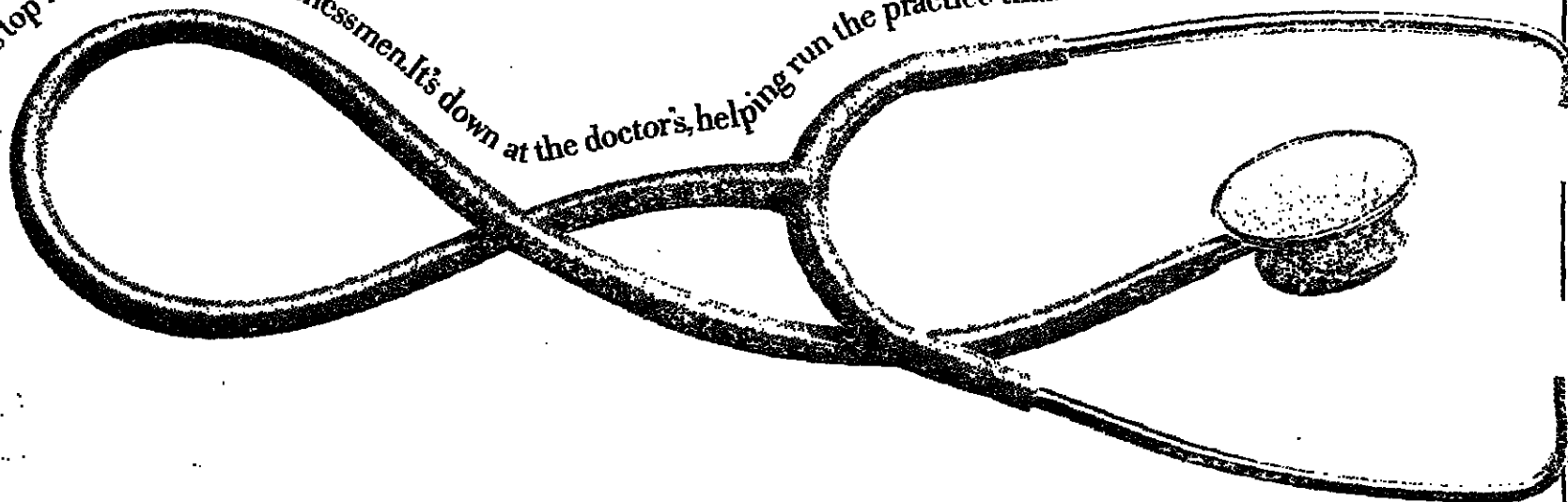
The BBC Micro is only 16" long. But it stretches indefinitely.



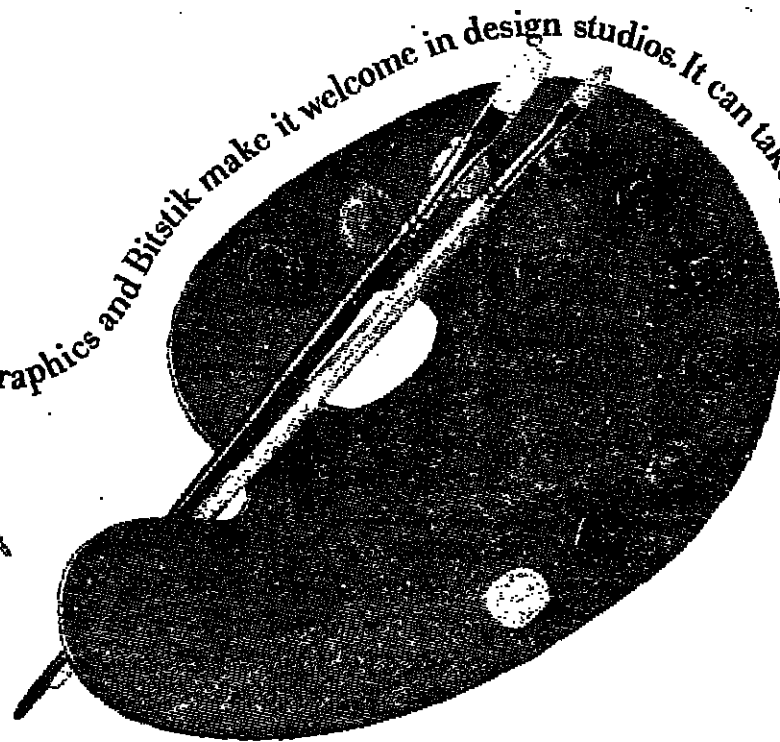
It stretches into schools where BBC Basic and the Econet



It's simplifying office life, and has grown into the country's top micro for small businessmen. It's down at the doctor's, helping run the practice thanks to programs designed by two GPs.



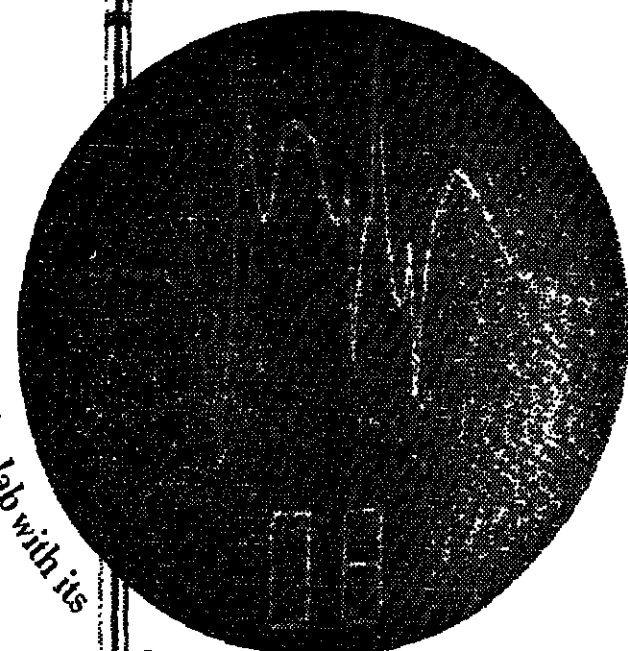
It's on TV, the star of a series of computer literacy programmes. Its colour graphics and Bitalk make it welcome in design studios. It can take you to the theatre using its Prestel and Teletext adaptors.



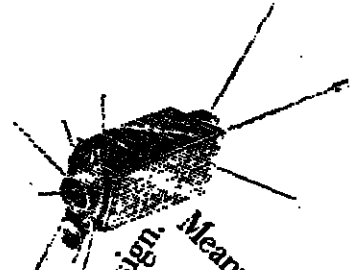
It can take you to the theatre using its Prestel and Teletext adaptors.



While helping out at the lab with its scientific monitoring interface. It has even been working in space, tracking a satellite it also helped design.



It has even been working in space, tracking a satellite it also helped design.



Meanwhile, back on Earth at 49 Acacia Avenue

The BBC Microcomputer System. The world's best. And still growing.

The BBC Microcomputer System is designed, produced and distributed by Acorn Computers Ltd.

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From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year ended	Price Jan 1984	Chg on Friday	Chg on week	Chg on month	Chg on year	P/E
1	BANKS DISCOUNT B.P.	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
2	King & Sherrin	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
3	Cornwall Ltd	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
4	New Amco Ltd	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
5	Bank of Scotland	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
6	Midland	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
7	Scotish & Newcastle	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
8	Union	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
9	Brown Shipley	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
10	Schroder	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
11	Carroll (H) Domicile	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
12	Levi (TV)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
13	Magnum & South	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
14	Pharm (John)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
15	Blue Circle	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
16	Leach (William)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
17	Monk (A)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
18	Bellway	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
19	Turkitt	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
20	Taylor Woodrow	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
21	Generators	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
22	Kitchen (Rita Taylor)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
23	Comau	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
24	Examed Ltd	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
25	Piccadilly CAV	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
26	Chl Ltd	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
27	Fogarty	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
28	Gervon Eng	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
29	Halse	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
30	Kershaw (A)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
31	Woodward (Glen)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
32	Calsonic	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
33	Kendall Motor	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
34	Gates (Frank G)	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
35	Lane	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
36	Applied	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
37	Harwell	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
38	Group Lotus	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
39	Kwik-Fit	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5
40	AE	1983	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12.5

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

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Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Stock	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Began, Oct 29. Dealings End, Nov 9. Contango Day, Nov 12. Settlement Day, Nov 19.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

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Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

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Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg
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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A tax to help those in the dole queue

One of the few ways in which the Chancellor is prepared to admit he can "do something" about unemployment is through cutting taxes. According to the general run of rhetoric in government speeches, tax cuts help by stimulating entrepreneurial activity and enhancing work incentives. The practical questions raised by this faith need to be distinguished well before Mr Nigel Lawson's next Budget.

For the signs are that Mr Lawson is planning to distribute quite a bit of money. Some £2 billion, give or take the Star Chambers' margin of failure in limiting public expenditure, is already allowed for in his medium-term strategy, and it is probable that Mr Lawson is planning to cut rather more.

Let us concentrate on what he plans to do with the money. For it is possible to spend an awful lot through tax cuts and have minimal or even perverse results. Just 1p off the standard rate of income tax, remember now cost high on £1 billion.

The Chancellor, it seems, has broadly four objectives. First, as we know, he believes in removing distortions in tax system. In the long run, these do not inhibit growth, and they certainly inhibit free choice; we should be grateful for a Chancellor prepared to examine structural deficiencies in our tax system. But in the short term, it is not obvious that the introduction of new distortions, favouring employment, would not be useful; and even such a free-market man as Sir Alan Walters has wished one such employment scheme on the Government.

Secondly, Mr Lawson hopes and tries to increase the demand for labour by offering income tax cuts, pleading with the employed to reduce their cost to employers by foregoing real wage increases and accepting instead real increases in after-tax income. But neither he nor his predecessor have had much success in injecting the notion of bargaining for post-tax pay rises into British wage negotiations.

Thirdly, the Chancellor has been attempting to reduce labour costs to employers, by shifting the tax burden away from the use of labour and on to the use of capital; notably by abolishing "labour's tax on jobs" - the National Insurance surcharge - and scaling down capital allowances.

But it is not altogether clear that abolition of the surcharge has done anything more than finance higher pay rises. There is at least a suspicion that the costs saved by industry have poured out into employees' pockets; as wages have continued to rise much faster than prices.

Fourthly, the Chancellor believes that a cut in income taxes helps by making working and earning more attractive, but it is not immediately obvious that what Britain needs right now is an increase in the supply of labour. It is for example, arguable that the principal effect of recent increases in income tax thresholds had been to entice into the labour force more of the wives of men already in employment.

This dismal catalogue of snags argues the need for more precise objectives. The best place to start is with those features of the existing National Insurance and income tax systems which most obviously foster unemployment.

The worst feature of the National Insurance system is its peculiar threshold (which unfairly disadvantages those looking for full-time work at the lower end of the pay scale). The threshold, currently £34 a week, causes trouble because anyone stepping above it becomes liable for contributions on every pound earned; and so, of course, does his or her employer.

This makes it a particularly burdensome tax on low-paid employment bearing harshly on the young. A 16-18-year-old earning this year's average youth wage of about £60 a week pays £5.40 in National Insurance; his employer pays even more. And it provides a strong incentive to employ part-timers earning less than the threshold. Some work recently carried out by Messrs Hart and Trinder of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, analyses the damage this has done to the employment prospects of the young, increasing the part-time employment of married women instead.

But the answer is not, as the Government seems to be considering, simply to exempt the under-18s from National Insurance; nor even, as Dr David Owen proposes, to introduce a differential range of contributions designed to shift the balance of advantage from the higher to the lower-paid. The changes he is rightly seeking would be better based on more radical reform: that is, fusion of the income tax and National Insurance systems for employees (which, incidentally, means the higher-paid would no longer enjoy a ceiling on contributions) and introducing a straightforward payroll tax on employers.

Such a change would not, of itself, cost money; it would simply provide a better framework within which to cut labour taxes. A payroll tax would provide a better base from which to introduce any of the specific employment incentives now brewing in Whitehall, or the more adventurous schemes proposed by Dr Owen.

Although the Department of Employment is a bit pusillanimous about the practical difficulties involved in the National Insurance system as the database for the introduction of, for example, marginal employment subsidies, a tax system which embraced all employees, rather than excluding part-timers, would obviously be subject to less manipulation by employers.

The change would instantly remove the distortion in favour of part-time work. That might, of course, actually reduce the absolute numbers of people employed (the much-vaunted increase in employment this past year has been caused by a further rise in the number of part-timers). But it would give a greater chance of employment to those on the dole, who are by and large in search of full-time work.

The National Institute discusses a further way of boosting unemployed people's opportunities. And that is to grasp the nettle of family taxation. Messrs Hart and Trinder persuasively argue that providing married couples with two single tax allowances irrespective of whether both work, in place of the present range from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half tax allowances, would reduce the present distortive encouragement to married women to join the labour force.

It would also, incidentally, steeply increase the tax threshold for the family man on the dole, who is statistically much less likely than his employed neighbour to have a working wife. It would thus powerfully increase his incentive to take a job much more powerfully than Mr Lawson could conceivably do if he were to spread his cash thinly across the taxpaying population. This change in the tax system would not cost money (National Institute calculations suggest it would raise an extra £500m to redistribute). It would be politically bold. But it is better to live dangerously than to tinker while the dole queue grows.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

Follow a medium-term strategy

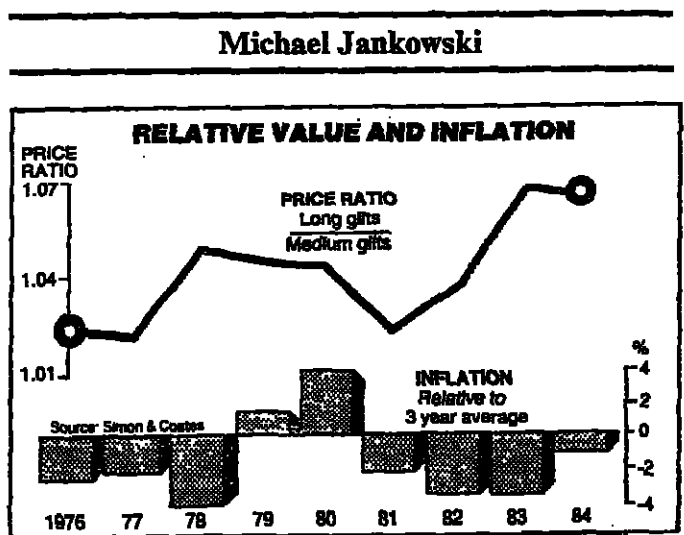
The gilt-edged market is once again confronted with the main area of resistance, but this time looks more likely to break through the "magical" 10 per cent yield level on the FTA 25-year high-coupon yield index than ever before.

British interest rates look to be coming down, monetary growth is contained and the cyclical rise in credit demands is slowing. Furthermore, United States interest rates are coming down, the dollar is weakening and United States bond markets are rallying.

This is in sharp contrast to the situation earlier this year when gilts made three unsuccessful attempts to break below 10 per cent. At that time, however, overseas factors were a restraining influence on gilts; now they are not. In fact, the present yield structure in the United States market alone is supportive of higher gilt-edged prices.

The 20-year spread - presently at 124 basis points - is low relative to what fundamentals would indicate and some widening would be expected. If the chartists prove correct, the rise in market prices that would result would be in the region of 6-7 per cent. With such a price movement possible, positioning in the market is crucial. This is where market enthusiasm and fundamental value may begin to clash.

Market enthusiasm would indicate that under such circumstances the very long-dated stocks would outperform the rest. This would be expected because for a given fall in yields, longer-dated securities would have a larger price



performance, the question is whether yields can, or will, fall equally. I would suggest that they are unlikely to do so, because this would imply a highly optimistic view on interest and inflation rates.

The lower chart shows how the relative prices of very long-dated stocks have performed against their shorter-dated brethren. It is important to note that the longer dates outperformed when inflation fell below its average over the previous three years and underperformed when there was a reversal of this situation.

Were all yields to fall equally, the inflation implications of such a structure of prices would be extraordinarily low. For example, equal yield performance would indicate that five-year yields in 1999 would be just above 4 per cent. With real

yields on index-linked stocks at 3 per cent, the investor would have to be looking for the virtual elimination of inflation.

With unemployment where it is, I would expect the Chancellor to soft-pedal on inflation to get some growth. While stable prices cannot be ruled out, I would not like to bet on it.

Looking at stocks in the present century, the choice is between mediums (1992-1994) and longs (1996-1999). It is here that equal yield performance could be contemplated without coming up against any serious problems with fundamental values. Five-year yields in 1994 would fall to around 8 per cent which, on slightly optimistic inflation expectations, could be possible.

Looking over the very long term the 1996-1999 area could perform better.

Bank's market blueprint due

The Bank of England is to publish its discussion document on the future structure of the gilt-edged market this week.

The document will have the status of a green paper. The Bank, after long consultation will be anxious not to stray too far from the ideas it sets out.

The structure of the market will be similar to the US Treasury bond market, with primary dealers, inter-broker dealers and agency brokers.

The most keenly-awaited section of the Bank's document will be that dealing with capital requirements for primary government bond dealers.

These will have the dual aim of ensuring a safe market and preventing market domination by one or two firms.

Over the short term, however, the longs may be held back by the new issue of Exchequer 9.75 per cent 1998 "A", announced last Friday.

As I stated in last month's article, index-linked gilts would outperform conventional gilts were real interest rates to fall. Given the level of real yields, this possibility must be taken seriously and some helping of these stocks ought to be sought.

Over the short-term, I would look for the market to improve further - possibly significantly. I am not, however, so optimistic on the prospects for inflation as I am on real interest rates. Consequently, purchases in the medium-dated area of the conventional market, along with some acquisition of index-linked securities, is recommended.

Although this strategy may appear odd in the face of a big move to lower yields, the present inflation scenario argues that any relative underperformance in the conventional is likely to be offset by a strong index-linked performance.

Michael Jankowski is chief bond economist at Simon & Coates.

Small shops will survive says survey

By Our Commercial Editor

Chain stores will grow further but corner shops and small supermarkets will survive because of demand for local shopping, according to a forecast for the next five years of retailing published yesterday by Staniland Hall Associates, the business consultants.

The boundaries of retailing are expected to be stretched to include financial services, life assurance, holidays and cars. The look of a store will become a key element as well as merchandise innovation, says the survey.

More mergers and takeovers are also forecast. New technology will improve stock control benefiting smaller shops in particular. The likely liberalization of shopping hours including Sunday opening will also bring big changes.

There will be a growth of specialist stores as well as large mixed businesses, says the survey.

Overall, consumer spending is expected to rise 7.5 per cent a year up to 1988 and 6.5 per cent a year from 1988 to 1990, with above average growth expected for large grocers and electrical, furniture, leisure goods and do-it-yourself specialists.

Employment in retailing, which was at a low point in 1982, has already risen and may increase a little further to nearly 2.5 million by 1986. After that it could fall under the impact of larger shops and new technology, the survey suggests.

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Michael Jankowski is chief bond economist at Simon & Coates.

Uncertainty grows as Rowland remains on Fraser board

By William Kay, City Editor

Dealings in House of Fraser shares are expected to be hectic and nervous when the stock market opens this morning.

On Friday the shares soared 44p at one time to touch 320p, but closed only 10p ahead at 286p in the wake of the news that Lomro had sold its 29.9 per cent stake in Fraser to Allied Investment and Trust (UK) at 300p.

Since then, however, Fraser shareholders have been treated to a weekend of speculation and contradiction which can only unsettle the market today.

At the heart of the uncertainty is the question of whether Lord Duncan-Sandys and Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, respectively the chairman and chief executive of Lomro, will resign as directors of Fraser.

They were on the Fraser

board primarily to safeguard Lomro's considerable investment. At Fraser's annual meeting in September Mr Rowland was re-elected with a vote of 97.7 million votes, nearly half of which stemmed from Lomro's shareholding. However, he would have been returned even if Lomro had abstained.

Nevertheless, when the Al-Fayed family bought Lomro's shares for £138.5m on Friday, they had been led to believe that Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys would automatically quit.

But after the banker's draft changed hands, it emerged that Mr Rowland had changed his mind. It is now regretted in some quarters that his resignation from Fraser was not made a condition of the share deal.

This is but one of several unappealing portents to the deal which at first blush seemed to solve so much. In parallel with Mr Rowland's apparent decision to stay put for the time being is the question of whether Lomro will formally abandon the intention to make a takeover bid for Fraser.

Without that disclaimer, the present Monopolies and Mergers Commission's investigation into Fraser cannot be abandoned.

The other area of growing uncertainty is the stance of the Al-Fayed brothers themselves. It is clear that they share Mr Rowland's former fascination with Harrods, the jewel in House of Fraser's 107-store crown.

The extent of that fascination in turn casts doubt on their

claim that their holding in Fraser is merely a long-term investment and on their willingness to accept a passive role in the management of the company.

Sources close to this immensely rich Egyptian family confirm that they were prepared to make a full bid on Thursday, but backed down when it was obvious that the Fraser board could not recommend it at the price of 300p without considerable delay.

Meanwhile, they must sit as non-executive Fraser directors. A final point is that some 12 per cent of Fraser's shares are in hands friendly to Lomro, but apart from the Lomro camp.

At least one member of that group, Mr Jack Hayward with 2 million shares, has declared himself a seller at 300p.

Spot market threat to Opec price bid

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The agreement reached by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to cut daily output by a million barrels to force up prices is already threatened by increased reliance on the spot markets by oil companies and by Iran allowing part of its production onto the spot markets.

Opec had hoped that by limiting output, and with colder weather increasing demand, prices would soon rise on the spot markets to above the official Opec market price of \$29 a barrel.

However, that strategy is under pressure by a decision by many of the leading oil companies to increase their buying in the spot markets while Opec's unity appears under strain. Some companies now buy 60 per cent on the spot markets compared with 30 per cent six months ago.

Iran, which accepted a cut in quotas while seeing Iraq given permission by Opec to keep its output quota intact because of the Gulf war, now says the agreed cut was too small and has allowed its oil to return to the spot markets.

In the past Iran only allowed customers with long-term contracts access to sales of spot-market oil by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). It has changed that policy to allow a Japanese trading company to buy heavy oil at 70 cents a

barrel below the official contract price and light crude at \$1.20 below the official price.

The deal involving 1.55 million barrels is seen as a sign that Iran is embarking on an aggressive campaign to sell its oil. Its new Opec quota is 100,000 barrels a day less than the 2.4 million barrels a day set in London in March last year, but production runs at about a million barrels less.

A new trading pattern between Iran and its main customers, notably the Japanese, seems to be emerging with little business being done on term contract or at the official Opec price. Large cargoes are being offered at discounts of up to \$1.70 a barrel.

It appears, however, that Iran will only sell up to its agreed Opec quota. Mr Mohammad Chahroudi said at the weekend that Opec should have cut output by up to 3 million barrels a day to restore prices.

Britain and Norway are offering contract customers oil at below the Opec market price and Nigeria, an Opec member, has yet to announce whether prices will lift back to Opec levels.

However, demand since the Opec decision has shown little sign of rising and spot-prices are still about 50 cents below the new term prices being offered by Britain, Norway and Nigeria.

Capel sees £1.5bn cuts

The stockbroker, James Capel & Co, predicts £1.5 billion of tax cuts in the next Budget compared with published plans featuring a £2 billion reduction.

The prediction comes despite the Chancellor's recent statement on the public sector borrowing requirement that £2.5 billion was likely for 1984/85, compared with his Budget-due forecast of £7.2 billion. James Capel expects a 1984/85 PSBR of £7.7 billion.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1188.6 up 38.1
FT Index: 907.8 up 34.4
FT 250 Index: 82.28 up 1.85
FT All Share: 551.41 up 17.20
Bargains: 19.446
Debtstream USM Leaders Index: 105.30 up 3.48
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1216.65 up 11.70
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,249.95 up 34.82
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 11,249.95 up 34.82
Amsterdam: 179.20 down 1.6
Sydney: AO Index: 766.10 up 16.1
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1,086.70 up 13.1
Brussels: General Index: 163.46 down 0.53
Paris: CAC Index: 181.40 down 1.6
Zurich: SKA General: 317.20 up 3.6

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Applied Computer Techniques, Associated British Foods, British Investment Trust, Bronx Engineering, Delyn Packaging and Tysons (Contractors).
FINALS: Bridport-Gundry, Camphorn, Drayton Consolidated Trust, and WA Tyzack.
TOMORROW - Interims: Bradford Property Trust, Hambros Investment Trust, J Sainsbury and Winterbottom Energy Trust. FINALS: Gomme Holdings, Microfilm Reprographics and Wolsley-Hughes.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Abey Holdings, Caterer Allen Holdings, Hartwells Group, Malaric Hygrade Gold Mines (third quarter), Philips Lamps (third quarter), Rush and Tompkins, Shilo, H C Singsey and Thomas Warrington and Sons.
FINALS: Jessups and Peters Stores.

THURSDAY - Interims: Aquascutum, Asset Special Situations Trust, British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, Buckleys Brewery, Capital Gearing Trust, Churchbury Estates, King and Shaxson, Lowland Investment, Northern Securities Trust, Royal Dutch Petroleum (third quarter) and Shell Transport and Trading (third quarter). FINALS: London and Provincial Shop Centres, Murray Technology Investments, National Australia Bank, North Atlantic Securities, Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers and Scottish Cities Investment Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Futura Holdings, Hill Samuel Group, Polymark International and John C. Small and Tidmas. FINALS: None announced.

IT TOOK ALL OUR EXPERIENCE AT SEA TO PREPARE US FOR DRY LAND.

You might think of the Sahara Desert as the most unlikely place to find a company like John Brown.

But because of our involvement with turbine power in our ship building days, we found ourselves ideally suited to the manufacture of turbines for a variety of other uses.

Hence, in the heat of the Sahara, we have turbines working as part of the Algerian gas gathering system.

Whilst in Alaska, similar machines are also proving their worth.

And soon we will have turbines pumping natural gas 2,500 miles across the Soviet Union.

Our turbines have been built to cope with the severest of environments.

Which probably accounts for why we've already supplied over 370 to more than 40 countries.

But our interests in power are wider than turbines alone.

We also provide a complete turnkey service for the construction of whole power stations, from design to commissioning.

And we're dedicated to producing power more efficiently: both by burning a wider range of fuels and by employing the latest heat recovery techniques.

But apart from power generation, we are also world leaders in polymer plants, oil platform design, plastics processing machinery and biochemical engineering.

We are international in our scope of operations. And diverse in our expertise.

But above all, we are totally committed to extending the frontiers of modern engineering.

Whether at sea, or on land.

JOHN BROWN

Proud of our past. Committed to our future.

The major British bank's shares have enjoyed a period of almost continuous strength since the summer. The FT Banks index has risen by 18 per cent since June, and now stands at the same level as the five-year peak it reached at the end of last year. This is welcome news for long-suffering bank shareholders, who have witnessed a decline in the value of their investment relative to the all share index of 36 per cent over ten years and, at the trough in June, a fall of nearly a fifth in absolute terms in only six months.

The sector has become highly volatile, with large movements in prices becoming accepted without a qualm, and this obviously poses problems for analyst and investor alike.

The most important single reason for the rally has undoubtedly been the agreement reached by Latin American debtor nations with their bankers. After the near panic of early summer it was a major relief that the South Americans and their creditors were able to draft agreed programmes whereby the banks would lend more in return for the continuation of approved economic policies by the debtors.

The most important settlement was Mexico's multi-year rescheduling, which for the first time dispelled the fear of annually approaching a precipice should negotiations hit problems.

Brazil, the biggest debtor, has shown a remarkable economic performance, generating massive trade surpluses, which has enhanced her ability to survive her foreign debt. These events have led to the view gaining ground that the debt crisis, if not over, had at least passed the peak of its danger to the banks, and sentiment towards the shares improved dramatically.

There have been other, less important, reasons for the shares' strength, including American buying, good results from US banks and measures taken by most of the British banks to strengthen their balance sheets. But the most important single factor has been

Debt crisis stays a likely source of banks' problems

William Vincent

The perceived lessening of the international debt crisis. In our view, the extent of the shares' strength is slightly surprising, because the debt crisis could still erupt again at any time, notwithstanding the recent agreements.

There is the risk that the American economy might slow down, reducing the debtors' ability to generate trade surpluses in order to pay interest to their creditors. Such a deceleration in the US would produce off-setting advantages, not least the probability of lower interest rates and a fall in the dollar, but overall a US recession would be a serious blow to the debtors.

The debtors' governments are still under immense pressure to

improve the lot of their people, who in many cases were desperately poor even before the debt crisis erupted, and there is the risk of violence or even revolt to contend with if this cannot be achieved. Falling oil prices would damage Mexico and Venezuela seriously, and Argentina, slightly, adding a further element of uncertainty.

We feel that the extent of the burst of optimism following the Latin American deals is not fully justified. The underlying problems remain, although they have been pushed out of the news and many investors' minds. The summer has seen an easing of the crisis but it remains, and will do so for years, a cause for worry and a potential source of serious problems for the banks.

We are not doomsters preaching the end of the financial system; we merely feel that the banks' share prices currently take rather too much on trust and that there is little or no room for disappointment, from whatever source. The good news looks fully discounted: the problems seem to have been forgotten. The share prices are therefore vulnerable and we would suggest taking profits while they remain available.

The author is banking analyst with Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee & Co.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Capitalization £	Company	Price	Chg on Friday	Gross Div. p/ann	Yield %	P/E
100.00	Abacus	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Admiral	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Capitalization £	Company	Price	Chg on Friday	Gross Div. p/ann	Yield %	P/E
100.00	Abacus	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Admiral	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3
100.00	Anglo	100.00	+0.10	7.50	7.50	13.3

Office boom

The central London office market looks set for a boom with lettings and sales indicating a record-breaking year. By end September 8.1 million sq ft of space went off the market. If average monthly take-up continues at the current rate - 30 per cent higher than last year - 1984 could see more than 10 million sq ft of space let or under offer.

USM REVIEW

10 firms live to celebrate junior's fourth birthday

Pioneers often fail to reap their just rewards but the brave 11 who, with a muted fanfare, launched the Stock Exchange's junior share market have fared relatively well.

The now highly successful, still often controversial, Unlisted Securities Market was born four years ago this week. Of the 11 starters, nine made the transition from the rule 163 facility market and two arrived through share placings.

They were a strange cross-section of British industry - both old and new.

There were three emerging oil companies - Cliff Oil, Clyde Petroleum and Sovereign Oil and Gas - and Scan Data, the first of the long list of computer stocks which have since become such a power on the USM.

Airall offers communications equipment, Hadland Holdings makes optical cameras and London and Continental Advertising is a poster group, which has since grown dramatically.

McLaughlin & Harvey, builders and civil engineers; Hesketh Motorcycles; United Electronic Holdings and Fuller, Smith and Turner, the family controlled brewery famed for its ESB and London Pride beers, made up the rest of this

representation of British industry. Only Hesketh has failed to last the course. Many would suggest that such a grassroots enterprise was what the USM was designed to accommodate, although the staidness of recent issues suggests they are wrong, or there has been a change of heart.

Three of the original companies - United Electronic, Scan Data and Hadland - have been taken over. Only Hadland achieved an exit price above its opening one.

Three of the others - Sovereign, Clyde and London and Continental - have obtained full listings and the rest continue to exist, hopefully happily, on the USM.

With the exception of Hesketh and the takeover stocks, the USM originals have provided realistic, not always spectacular, investments. The USM has raised more than £680m in its four years. More than 300 companies have joined the ranks of the junior market although take overs and elevations to the senior market, plus a handful of disasters, have reduced the USM contingent to about 270.

It is the movement of USM companies to the full market - 34 have made the journey -

which many observers find so impressive. The Stock Exchange has had two-tier markets on a number of occasions in the past but this is the first time there has been cross-fertilization.

The flow of newcomers continues, if not quite at the level some had expected. Last week three companies - Plasmech, makers of plastic and precision engineering products; Share Drug Stores and Media Technology International - made their debuts.

On the starting grid are, among others, Adia Holdings, the plastic packaging business which is returning to the stock market after a management buyout; CVD Incorporated, a US high-technology business; Klark-Teknik, a sound equipment concern; Instem, a computer business; Gabicci, a clothing store; and Wardle Stores, the old Bernard Wardle plastic sheets company.

Mr Alan Comer, a partner at the accountants Peat Marwick, who follows the USM, says: "When the market was launched four years ago there were many sceptics. You only have to look at the number of companies that have already come to the market since then continuing development to see what a runaway success it has been".

Derek Pain

Short-term interest rates tumble

US NOTEBOOK

The American economic and financial scene is being rapidly transformed. Economic growth is slowing to a crawl and short-term interest rates are collapsing. Bonds continue the rally that began at the end of June.

The dollar's big bull run is almost over: DM3 to the dollar now looks like the top for the American unit. So the two forces that supported the dollar on its long way up from 1980 are weakening fast - high US economic growth is becoming a thing of the past and high interest rates are being cut back rapidly.

Since the end of August, the yield on 90-day T-bills has fallen almost vertically. At that time, 30-day T-bills yielded 10.65 per cent and on October 1 they yielded 9.02 per cent, an extraordinary decline in the space of about eight weeks.

Another indicator of short-term credit costs is the yield on Federal funds. In the first week of September, funds were yielding 11.68 per cent. At the close on October 1 they were down to 9.94 per cent. Other short-term rates have fallen in sympathy.

The whole short-term interest rate structure has collapsed in the space of about eight weeks. Rates have fallen about 150-200 basis points.

There are reports from Chicago that technical indications point to even lower short-term yields. "Bill rates have come close to the upturn line and breaking the 9.50 level should suggest the two-year upturn in bill rates is over and rates could continue down to 8 per cent".

The decline in short-term rates has not been the result of any sudden easing in Federal Reserve policy. On the contrary, the Fed had implemented a severe reduction in the rate of growth of banks' reserves in the last three months, when the "adjusted monetary base" (banks' reserves plus currency) rose at an annual rate of only 4 per cent against a rise of 7 1/2 per cent over the last 12 months.

the drop in rates has been the result of the decline in US economic growth rate from 10 per cent in the first quarter of the year through 7 per cent in the second quarter to 2 1/2 per cent in the third quarter.

Further declines in short-term interest rates will occur, as the economy continues to lose momentum. Eventually the Fed will have to change its policy.

Maxwell Newton

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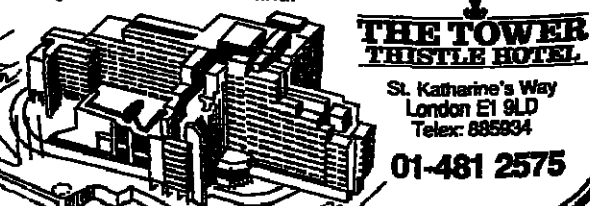
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Hotels

British hoteliers hope that the drift abroad by clients has been halted. Patricia Tisdall looks at what hotels in Britain now offer



British hoteliers are hoping to build on the gains they have made in business bookings with a larger share of the holiday market next year. The industry believes that currency-led price increases alone could slice 20 per cent or more off overseas package tour bookings next year and give British resorts the best chance they have had for years.

They are also conscious that recent improvements such as en-suite bathrooms together with exercise and sports amenities enables them to compete on more equal terms with Continental destinations than ever before.

As Frederick Gordon, the Victorian founder of the Metropolitan group and "Napoleon of the hotel world", once pointed out: "The backbone of the hotel business is the letting of apartments".

And the hotel industry has enjoyed a second year of soaring occupancy levels. The English Tourist Board's survey shows that by June, the latest month for which figures are available, hotel room occupancy had increased to 87 per cent for London and 66 per cent for England as a whole.

The evidence suggests that by the end of the year the 1983 annual total of 54 per cent (England) and 72 per cent (London) will be well exceeded.

The luxury hotel trade becomes very profitable once occupancy levels get above the 70 per cent mark. In London, which is bursting at the seams

Great hotels: The Carlton, Gleneagles in Scotland and The Dorchester. Luxury comes at a price, but demand for this kind of accommodation continues to grow

this autumn, demand for high calibre accommodation has kept the scores in the high 80s - which is very good news for the proprietors. Furthermore, there are some important differences between this and previous boom years which the industry believes augers well for its future prosperity as well as present fortunes.

One is that there are enough staff who are sufficiently well motivated to make high paying guests feel they are getting the service they deserve. Another is that the proprietors, some of whom are making a debut in the UK and presumably keen to make a good impression, are investing heavily in renovation and improvements to existing buildings rather than acquiring new sites as in previous years.

This in turn appears to have sparked a chain reaction of refurbishment in neighbouring establishments not just in London but in the rest of the country as well.

Most of the improvements have been directed at wooing globe-trotting business executives to stay overnight rather than commute out of working hours. But there appears to be a sufficient groundswell of high

spending discretionary traffic of the work hard, play hard variety to justify the installation of such leisure amenities as squash courts and indoor swimming pools.

A third category of high spenders are the newly retireds and second honeymooners who can be seen in recently constructed opulent restaurants and lounges and on the golf courses attached to country hotels in various beauty spots.

A holiday abroad in the sun became established as part of the good life in the 1960s and despite two good summers, sunshine is the one ingredient that British weather cannot reliably provide. But up to now, British hotels have been losing to foreign resorts in other ways.

Unhappy memories of antiquated or non-existent plumbing, surly or equally non-existent service and shabby furnishings in the 1960s and early 1970s hastened the drift abroad for holidaymakers who wanted a change from housework and could afford to pay for it. The hotel industry is hoping that if only half the extra one million it expects will remain in Britain for the 1985 holiday season will come and sample its new amenities and higher standards in 1985, it will help revise opinions about hotel holidays in the UK.

"People want hotels which will offer something just a bit more luxurious than that which they get at home. The industry can now offer a range of accommodation which will do just that", comments Ian Bell, chairman of the British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers' Association's Board of Management. In other words, standards in hotel accommodation need to keep at least one pace ahead of domestic improvements.

Most hotels have now caught up with fitted carpets, central heating and colour television, and have moved on with en-suite bathrooms. Quite a few are stepping into more exotic pastures with jacuzzis and saunas. Part of the recent refurbishment of the Hyatt Carlton Tower in London, for instance, includes four special spa suites, each of which has a whirlpool spa bath in a bathroom which has solid brass fittings.

The imaginatively designed indoor heated swimming pools which are a feature of Holiday Inns, which has 17 hotels in the UK, are now being adopted by

other groups. Facilities such as saunas, sun lamps and gymnasiums are now fairly commonplace.

The aristocratic Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London, offers a Nanny but other hotels will now provide baby sitters in an effort to encourage business visitors to bring their wives and families away at weekends.

High list prices for top grade hotel facilities (£85 a night or more for a single room) have given London a reputation for being the most expensive city in the world and discouraged independent holidaymakers in the provinces. However, industry estimates suggest that no more than 30 per cent of any hotel's business is charged at the full published rate.

The rest is discounted at various levels depending on the customer and on the need to fill rooms at any particular period.



Repackaging of tariffs to offer reductions to business people staying over for a weekend; enable two people sharing a room to stay for the price of one; or give added inducements such as free golf course fees, all represent efforts to broaden the business hotel customer base.

The British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers' Association is urging its members to keep price increases for 1985 to no more than 5 per cent to compete with foreign tours.

Mr Bell points out that the inclusive prices at present charged by some UK hotels already compare favourably with the cost of overseas holidays. "A family of four people, can stay for a week at a 3-star hotel in Wales which has a heated swimming pool, for instance, for an all-in price of £457" he says.

Vigorous petitions are being made for amendments to liquor licensing laws. The BHRCA takes the view that licensed hotels and restaurants should be permitted to serve alcohol with, or ancillary to, a meal at any time to both residents and non-residents alike.

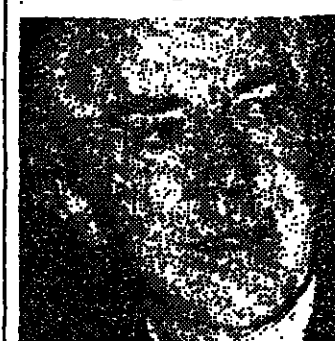
Such a reform would certainly remove a constant source of bait for foreigners and ease the embarrassing situations in which the visitor, i.e. the occupant of the hotel has to pay the host's bar bill after certain hours.

The Government's proposals for regional aid policy changes which recommend that services should qualify for aid on the same basis as manufacturers is regarded as an indication that tourism development is at last being taken seriously.

New owners move in

The acquisition of the majestic Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane by Robert Burns, a New York businessman based in Hong Kong, is just one example of a steady stream of overseas investors who have entered the London hotel market since the early 1970s.

So many hotels have switched games and owners recently to give anyone who has been away for a while a distinct feeling of musical chairs. The Dorchester itself, having been in



Robert Burns who now owns the Dorchester

MacAlpine family ownership since it was completed in the 1930s, has changed hands between two separate Arab syndicates in less than ten years.

Another entrant new to London is the Washington DC-based Marriott group, which acquired the Europa Hotel in Grosvenor Square and changed its name to the London Marriott Hotel last year.

The French Novotel chain bought Conard's huge 640-room Hammersmith hotel late in

1983 from Trafalgar House. Holiday Inn's expansion in the UK continues with the purchase of the 192-room Bristol Hotel in Piccadilly which will be renamed the Holiday Inn Mayfair when a £1m refurbishment package is completed.

The new owners appear to expect high standards and have demonstrated that they are prepared to invest in renovation to achieve this. Hyatt's newly-refurbished Carlton Tower in Cadogan Place ran the Canadian-owned Four Seasons' group's Inn-on-the-Park hotel a close second for the 1984 Best UK Hotel.

Hilton International, first of the post-war entrants to Park Lane has announced a £5m renovation programme - part of an overall estimated spending of £30m by the hotels located along this one prestigious London street.

What is the sudden attraction of London for jet-setting hotel proprietors? One answer lies in the present weakness of the sterling foreign exchange rate (it expressed in dollars the £40 plus million paid for the Dorchester looks a lot less in 1984 than it would have done when the hotel was last sold in 1979).

Another reason is the long-term security offered in an uncertain world by a freehold or long-lease on a prestige site in Central London.

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A touch of class at the grand hotels

The Grand Hotel at Brighton has become the focus of the nation's attention in the last two or three weeks. Ironically, it was only fairly recently that the hotel was refurbished with fine quality new furnishings, fresh paintwork and restored ornate mouldings - ruined by the explosion. The restoration programme carried out at the Grand by Greenall-Whitley who took over ownership from de Vere Hotels in August is just one example of a quiet transformation which the last few years have seen at many of the old-established holiday resorts.

At first encouraged somewhat grudgingly as a margin activity to keep hotels open during the winter business, visitors are now regarded as the most important source of new revenue by the municipal authorities. Indeed, in Brighton, according to a research survey published earlier this year, spending by conference delegates alone has overtaken that of the holidaymakers.

The survey showed that of the £66m total revenue which Brighton earned from visitors, £23m came from conferences, day visitors accounted for £22m while holidaymakers spent only £14m.

Foreign language students accounted for £10m, visitors staying with friends or relatives £8m and independent business visitors £3m.

A complete character change for Brighton

Commenting on the study, Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board, said: "Brighton has undergone a complete character change, partly by good luck and partly from vision. The good luck has been Gatwick. There is no doubt that conferences, including international conferences, are prepared to go to Brighton because of ease of movement. The good planning is Brighton's conference centre, among the most up-to-date in the country. The 5000 seat conference centre opened amid some scepticism in 1977, with a cluster of other improvements including a new shopping centre



undoubtedly helped to cushion Brighton hoteliers from the declining demand from holidaymakers.

Since the centre opened they have been steadily adjusting their facilities to a new market which values meeting rooms, a telex and en suite bathrooms as much as a sea view and are prepared to pay accordingly.

The leisure market is not entirely forgotten - including in a £4m renovation programme for the Norfolk Continental Hotel at Brighton for instance is an indoor swimming pool - but it relies less on the vagaries of British weather than did the first generation resort hotels.

A similar change is under way at Blackpool where access to the rest of the country has been improved by the opening of the M55 motorway in 1975. The latest hotel, the Metropole Pembroke opened in 1982, is in the four star category - all its 205 guest rooms have private bathrooms and there are 12 suites (one of them said to be Shirley Bassey's favourite). There is, in addition, more than 15,000 sq ft of meeting room



space at the hotel.

A resort venue which made almost a total transition from leisure to business is the old spa town of Harrogate in Yorkshire. As in Brighton, new development in hotels has followed the opening in 1982 of new conference facilities. A new 214 room Harrogate

International is scheduled to open alongside the conference centre in January 1985. About 60 per cent of the guests at the new hotel are expected to be business people but a substantial proportion of leisure travellers are also expected.

A more recent entrant to the conference circuit is the self-

styled "English Riviera" belt of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Helped by an EEC Regional budget grant there are several new developments including a new conference and exhibition centre. At Bournemouth, which also prides itself on its mild winters, a new conference centre with a main hall which seats 4,000 delegates was inaugurated in September.

There appears to be enough demand for up-market facilities for entrepreneurs to "go it alone" in areas where there is no likelihood of assistance from municipal amenities. In beauty spots all over the country stately homes, run down hotels and small inns are being turned into peaceful retreats for a select clientele which appreciates good food and luxurious surroundings.

Often the conversion is carried out by young proprietors and craft workers who are themselves refugees from the rat race. Some of these comparative youngsters are demonstrating a respect for old-fashioned service as well as buildings which their counter-

Palladian elegance: the saloon and facade of Ston Easton, near Bath, a once private home that is now a 16 bedroom hotel

parts from the "New Look" 1950s and 1960s find surprising. In the West Country, Ston Easton in Somerset owned by Sir William Rees-Mogg when he was editor of *The Times* is one example of a Palladian house which has been converted into a grand hotel. Under Christine and Peter Smedley, its new owners, Ston Easton was opened in June 1982 with 16 bedrooms and a restaurant. In the same year it was awarded the Egon Ronay Gold Plate Award for the Hotel of the Year, rating it as the top hotel in England outside London.

Glencroft in Perthshire, which was built as a great railway hotel and completed in 1924, is an example of a big old establishment which has been given a much needed facelift as part of the new nostalgia for de luxe facilities.

Around £4m has been spent on Glencroft since it was privatized out of the British Rail owned British Transport Hotels Group in 1981. As well as 1500 new sash-cords, improvements have included a swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi as additions to the existing world famous golf course.

Designed originally for leisure aristocrats, the revamped 1980's Glencroft is already attracting the whizz kid technocrats of Scotland's "Silicon Glen" and North Sea oilfields as well as sightseeing Americans.

The new wave of big spenders

There have been some radical changes in the league table of British hotel companies in the last five years. Two of the largest groups, the J Lyons owned Strand Hotels and British Rail's British Transport Hotels have disappeared, leaving the properties they created to new owners.

Grand Metropolitan has virtually withdrawn from hotel business, selling many of its properties to the publicly quoted Queen's Moat Houses company. Crest, a Bass subsidiary has brought the Esso and Centre groups and has spent over £15m on refurbishing a chain of almost 100 hotels in five countries.

One of the most vigorous of the newcomers is the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries owned Thistle group, which operates 38 hotels in England and Scotland, has over 5000 bedrooms and ranks among the five biggest hotel groups in the UK.

From its original base in North London, a series of acquisitions has given the company a strong London presence with a range of 10 hotels in a variety of price brackets. A renovation programme costing £30m was announced by the group earlier this year.

The Selfridge Hotel off Oxford Street opened with 298 bedrooms in April 1972 and now a flagship of the Thistle group along with the 826 room Tower

Thistle Hotel, provides a good illustration of the way that ownership has shifted. The hotel was developed by the store group in time to meet the deadline for a government grant.

It was then let to Golden Egg who opened it and ran it for a year before being taken over by EMI, which in turn was acquired by Thorn Electrical. Thorn/EMI, which also acquired a number of Strand properties, then sold their hotel division to the present owners.

Airport hotels figured prominently in the scramble to meet the March 1973 time-limit for grants after the Government's belated recognition of the possibilities of tourism's foreign earning potential. The gloom mongers who have always forecast the worst for the dozen or so hotels which clustered around Heathrow at that time and for the six or so which arrived at Gatwick.

Trusthouse Forte built no fewer than four of the Heathrow hotels - the Ariel, Excelsior, Skyway and Post House and a Post House at Gatwick.

Aided by much quieter aircraft, improved road and rail transport and plenty of car parking space the investment in the airport centres finally appears to have paid off. The London airport hotels have developed a substantial conference trade from local as well as international businesses.

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A growing demand for managers

There are 500,000 vacancies a year in the hotel industry, mainly due to staff turnover. Two thirds of the employees in the industry have no vocational qualification, and only one sixth hold a catering qualification. The Hotel and Catering Industry Board says that 200,000 managers, supervisors and craftspeople will be required over the next five years.

The hotel sector attracts a large proportion of newly qualified entrants, but it also serves as a training ground for other sectors, losing staff to restaurants, cafes, clubs and pubs.

TEC diplomas have now replaced the ONDs and HNDs, and there has been an increase in degree courses in hotel and catering subjects, including an innovative HSC programme at the Middlesex Business School. There is a demand for graduates with strong management potential. The Youth Training Scheme has produced an estimated 8,000 young people for the industry during 1983-84.

Qualifications for call-order cooks, room attendants, food service assistants and counter

service assistants are based on supervised work with a period of off the job training. The Manpower Services Commission is supporting new initiatives in the Open Tech for those wishing to develop their supervisory and management skills while still in full time employment.

Even so, there will still be a shortage of trained staff at all levels, and it is essential that educational institutions and the hotel industry collaborate to provide for the needs of the industry, both in the short and the long term.

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Trusthouse Forte

Britain's fervent challenge falters

The ill health of her mother, Tossie Budd, which has been cited as a reason for Miss Budd's not wishing to leave South Africa, appears to have been much exaggerated; and reports that she herself is close to a nervous breakdown seem to be nonsense.

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
AND REMOVALS
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IN MEMORIAM
 SCOTT HENDERSON, Q.C. John, 1913-1984. A devoted husband and father, who passed away on November 3, 1984, after a long illness. He was born on November 3, 1913, and was 71 years old at the time of his death. He was a member of the Scottish Bar and was known for his legal acumen and his sense of humour. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, John and Mary. He was buried in the Glasgow Necropolis on November 10, 1984.

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BIRTHS
 BERNARD, On November 2nd at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard. The father is a member of the Royal Air Force. The mother is a member of the Royal Navy. The child was born at 10.15 am and weighed 7 lbs 10 oz. He is 19 inches long and 13 cm round. He is a healthy baby and is expected to leave hospital on November 10th.

IN MEMORIAM
 THORPE LEWIS, 9th November 1913 to 5th November 1984. A devoted husband and father, who passed away on November 5, 1984, after a long illness. He was born on November 9, 1913, and was 71 years old at the time of his death. He was a member of the Royal Air Force and was known for his sense of humour and his love of music. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, John and Mary. He was buried in the Glasgow Necropolis on November 10, 1984.

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